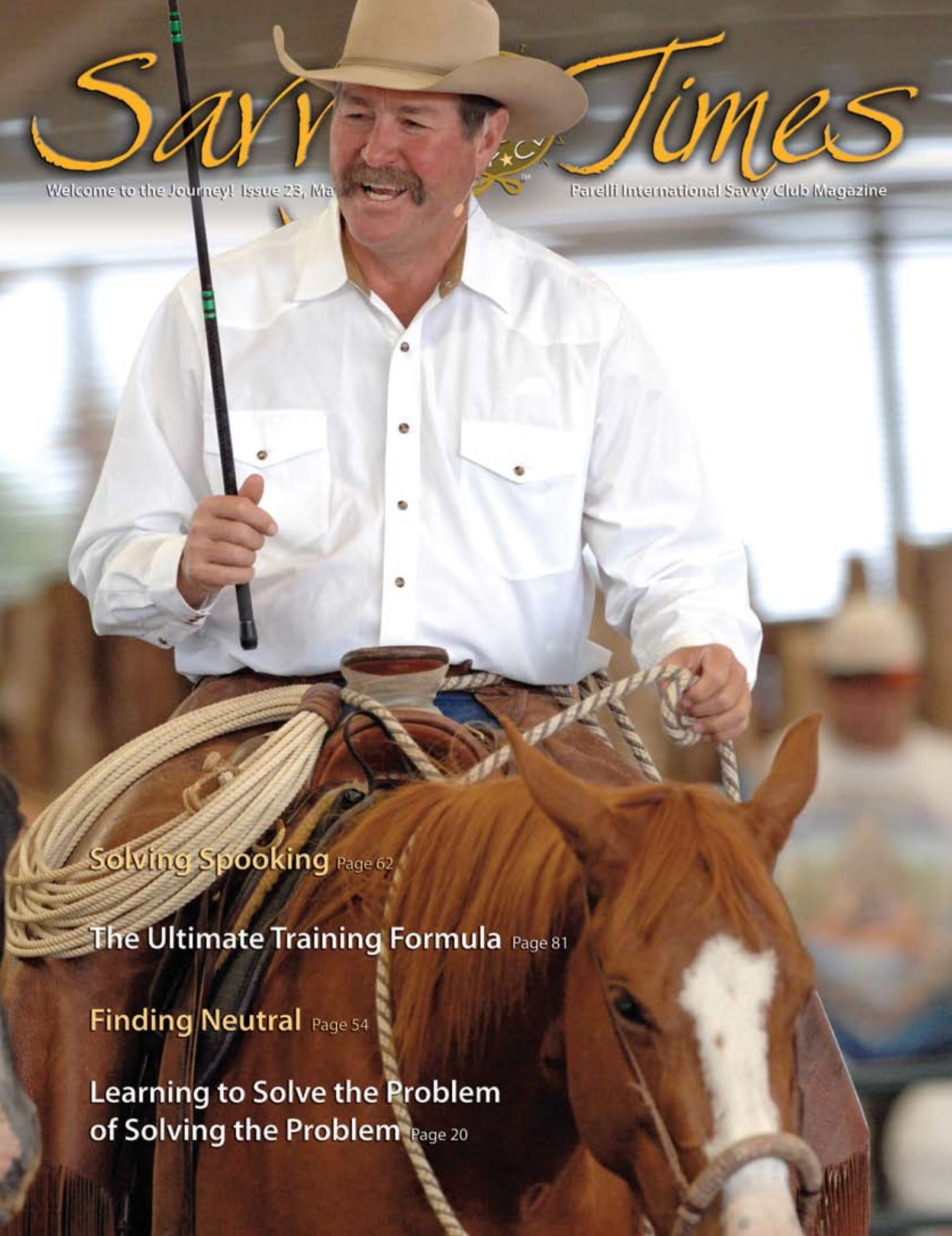


VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

A man with a mustache, wearing a light-colored cowboy hat and a white long-sleeved shirt, is riding a brown horse. He is holding a black lasso in his right hand and a rope in his left. The horse has a white blaze on its face. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a barn or arena.

Savvy Times

Welcome to the Journey! Issue 23, May

Parelli International Savvy Club Magazine

Solving Spooking Page 62

The Ultimate Training Formula Page 81

Finding Neutral Page 54

**Learning to Solve the Problem
of Solving the Problem** Page 20

Parelli Levels Pathway

Your Journey From Level 1 to Level 4

Making progress step by step, increasing your savvy level by level has never been more simple. Now you can develop in one Savvy at a time and progressively Add-A-Savvy when you are ready until you are playing in all Four Savvys with your horse - or two if you don't ride! To keep track of your accomplishments, download the Self Assessment Checklist on the Savvy Club website. Then download your own self assessment certificates. When you are ready send in an Official Audition to earn your Level 1, 2, 3 or 4 Horseman's Award and special Savvy String. For more details, go to parellisavvyclub.com

Start Here



Level 1 - Liberty
Begin Liberty Tasks as stated in Self Assessment Check List.
No Patterns until Level 2.

Progress to Level 2 and Self Assess for Level 1.

+

Level 1 - FreeStyle
Starter Kit:
2 DVDs - Safe Ride & Fluidity.
FreeStyle Patterns
Natural Hackamore or Snaffle bridle.
Use your On Line Patterns as a warm up for your riding in FreeStyle Patterns

Self Assess for Level 1 FreeStyle and progress to Level 2.

Level 2 - FreeStyle
Continue with FreeStyle Patterns and Tasks
Add Carrot Stick (which you should already have)
No required DVDs.
Optional DVD for trail riders: Ride Out, Savvy on the Trail.

Progress to Level 3 and Self Assess for Level 2. Audition for official Level 2 & Blue String (with Level 2 On Line)

+

Level 1 - On Line
Starter Kit:
2 DVDs - Seven Games & Horsemanship. Parelli On Line Patterns Halter, 12' & 22' Line, Carrot Stick and Savvy String.
For help go to Savvy Club site and search for answers, articles, video clips, etc. Send an email if you don't find what you need. Gold Savvy Club Members can use the Gold Hotline.

Progress to Level 2 and Self Assess for Level 1. Audition for official Level 1.

Level 2 - On Line
Continue with On Line Patterns. No new DVDs or equipment required.
When you are approx. half way through the Level 2 Patterns and feel ready for more, you can begin the FreeStyle Savvy.

Self Assess for Level 2 and progress to Level 3. Audition for official Level 2 On Line.

Level 3 - On Line
Continue with On Line Patterns and Tasks.
No new DVDs or equipment required.
Optional: DVD course "Liberty & Horse Behavior" for indepth study.

Progress to Level 4 and Self Assess for Level 3. Audition for official Level 3 On Line.

Level 1 - Finesse
Begin Finesse Tasks as stated in the Self Assessment Check List.
No Patterns until Level 2.

Progress to Level 2 and Self Assess for Level 1.



Level 2 - Finesse
Starter Kit:
2 DVDs – Collection & Lead Changes
Finesse Patterns.
Begin Level 2 Finesse Patterns & Tasks.

Progress to Level 3 and Self Assess for Level 2.



Level 3 - Finesse
Continue with Level 3 Patterns and Tasks
Add Cradle Bridle

Progress to Level 4 and Self Assess for Level 3.



Level 4 - Finesse
Continue with Level 4 Patterns and Tasks

Self Assess for Level 4 & Audition for official Level 4. When you have official Level 4 in all Four Savvys you will earn your Black String!



Level 2 - Liberty
Starter Kit:
2 DVDs – Natural Attraction & Beyond the Round Pen
Liberty Patterns
50 ft Round corral (wooden, tape, or Parelli Play Pen from Priefert).
Begin Liberty Patterns and Tasks

Progress to Level 3 and Self Assess for Level 2.



Level 3 - Liberty
Continue with Level 3 Patterns and Tasks

Progress to Level 4 and Self Assess for Level 3. Audition for Level 3. When you have official Level 3 in the 3 Savvys of On Line, FreeStyle and Liberty you will earn your Green String!



Level 4 - Liberty
Continue with Level 4 Patterns and Tasks

Self Assess for Level 4 & Audition for official Level 4.

Level 3 - FreeStyle
Continue with FreeStyle Patterns and Tasks
2nd Carrot Stick required
+ Bareback Pad.
You're heading for bridleless now!

Progress to Level 4 and Self Assess for Level 3. Audition for official Level 3.



Level 4 - FreeStyle
Continue with Level 4 FreeStyle Patterns and Tasks

Self Assess for Level 4 & Audition for official Level 4

Level 4 - On Line
Continue with On Line Patterns and Tasks.
No new DVDs or equipment required.

Self Assess and Audition for official Level 4 On Line.

Self Assess



There are a total of 16 Self Assessment Certificates to gain.

Official Audition

There are 4 Horseman awards to gain signified by a colored Savvy String & Official Certificate:



On Line
at Level 1 = **Red String**



On Line + FreeStyle
at Level 2 = **Blue String**



On Line+FreeStyle+Liberty
at Level 3 = **Green String**



On Line+FreeStyle+Liberty+Finesse
at Level 4 = **Black String**



Dear Friends,

When Linda and I joined together in 1993 we were committed to do more than train horses or run clinics. We focused all our energy on a very big goal—to change the world for horses and the people who love them. We set about to cause the level of horsemanship to rise and to change industry standards.

Rather than fight against injustice and ignorance, we chose to demonstrate another way—one based on the principles of love, language and leadership—to put the relationship first, develop a balanced foundation through Four Savvys and commit to never-ending self-improvement.

Along the way many people have joined the cause and helped us to share the Parelli message, taking us from humble beginnings to being the number one horsemanship program in the world. Today almost every horse discipline at every level has been touched in some way by Parelli, and many horses have been saved from being sold or destroyed by our teaching humans how to understand things from the horse's point of view. We gave life to a movement we named Natural Horsemanship, and it is now accepted as its own discipline.

The Savvy Club is about building a culture of dedicated students who join together to empower this cause. By being successful with your horse you will live your dream and at the same time help make the world a better place for horses and the people who love them.

Through horsemanship you learn to master the principles of relationships, which goes on to impact almost every other area of your life and the people you connect with.

Thank you for being part of helping us to change the world.

Yours naturally,

Pat Parelli

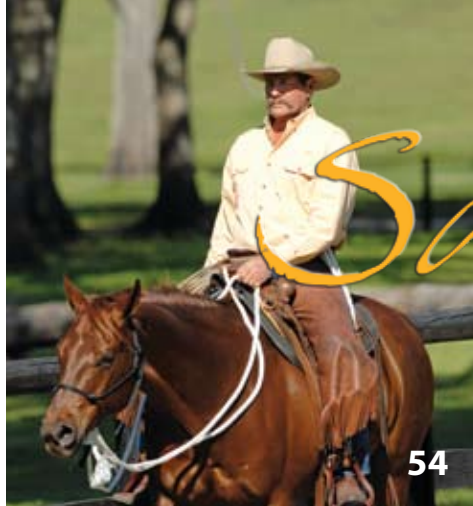
Linda Parelli



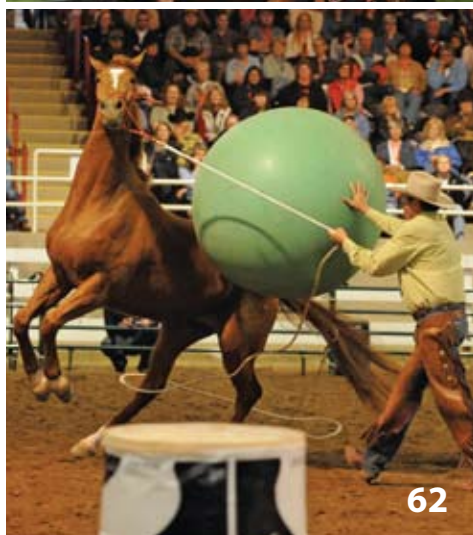
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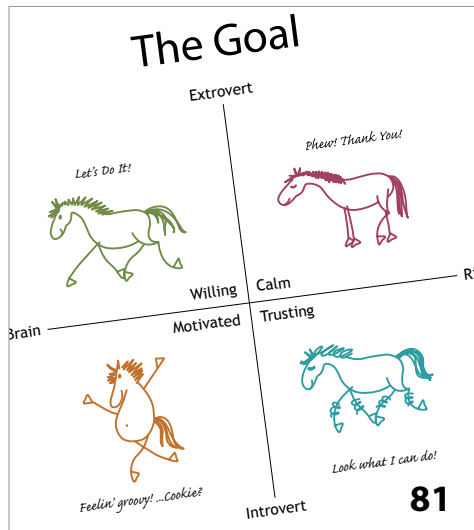
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How do you give your horse responsibility? By controlling your body and your emotions still. Pat calls it "finding neutral" and explains how the Circling Game and Freestyle riding can help.

62 | Solving Spooking

Horses are good prey animals, so naturally they react with fear when they feel unsafe. Learn how to be a better leader so that your horse feels safe when you're around.

81 | The Ultimate Training Formula

It's breathtaking: Linda defines the goals for working with a horse and the strategies needed to achieve those goals. Wow!

On the Cover:
Pat Parelli
and Vision at
Atwood Ranch, CA



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Parelli International Savvy Club™ Magazine
Issue 23, MAY 2009
www.parellisavvyclub.com • www.parelli.com
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savvyclub@parelli.com

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Dear Friends

So many exciting things going on at the moment I've barely seen the light of day! Thank goodness I feed my own horses, or I would never see them. I have to laugh when people have this glamorous view of my day—riding horses, laughing, sailing through on a magic cloud, playing with horses and eating bonbons.

Get real! I'm working harder than I ever have, and loving it—and so is Pat. We have much to share . . .

The 2009 Celebration Events

We really should have called them Savvy Conferences (on the road) because they are more like what we do in Colorado (without the glorious mountain views, of course). This is all about you. Rather than trying to introduce newcomers to Parelli, the main focus is teaching those of you already in the know. You can still bring a friend, you'll just have to fill in the blanks for them!

The Savvy Spotlights!

Oh, boy! Oh, no! I have had so much fun listening to the enthusiasm, excitement and learning experiences! First of all, I want to congratulate everyone who has stepped up to be in the Spotlight. Your courage and commitment and willingness to throw yourselves out there is more than admirable. Unlike normal competition, the Spotlight rewards everyone for participating and is kind of an Audition under pressure (the Audition is the new way to submit an official Levels Assessment). And under pressure it is—you are in there live, in person, with your horse, with over a thousand eager students watching you. And if that isn't enough, Pat Parelli is evaluating your performance. Sheesh!

In-house we have an affectionate term for what happens to us when Pat is around: our performance drops by at least 30%, and we call it the Pat Factor! Even I used to have it many, many years ago, but I soon got over it. I realized that I was concerned about what I would think of myself based on what Pat would think of me, so that made things clearer for me. I was always way harder on myself than Pat was. I just needed my horse Siren to run off with me during a presentation to finally put things in perspective:

It's not about the audience, it's not about what Pat thinks of me, it's not about trying to put on a show. It's about the relationship with my horse and being 100% present. Once we get that right, everything else goes away, and it all turns out fine. You go with the flow, you keep connected to your horse and to the audience. You learn to be . . . natural.

Just so you know, the Savvy Spotlight is part of the Parelli Games that Pat has been developing for release. It is the artistic element of the Games. The other Games are timed events and tournaments. Stay tuned for this exciting development to be released later this year.

Levels Auditions

Good, better, best . . . never let it rest! On February 1, 2009 we officially changed the official Levels Assessments to Auditions. Instead of having to submit over a hundred tasks over Four Savvys to achieve your Levels pass, you can now do it through Self-Assessment and Audition on Savvy at a time.

An Audition takes a maximum of ten minutes (live to camera) and allows you to display the level of your skill and relationship with your horse, one Savvy at a time—On Line, Liberty, Freestyle or Finesse. Our reason for changing was that the tests were becoming too mechanical, with individual tasks, rather than letting people show what they were capable of on any given day in one particular Savvy.

So far the results have been phenomenal. In the first four weeks after releasing the Auditions concept we had almost 200 submissions! We've even had students say they'd never been interested in being officially assessed up until now, which is wonderful. As always, there will be students who want to be officially assessed and students who don't, which is why the Self-Assessments (SAs) are so valuable. You can track your progress and measure yourself via the SAs, and then, if you want to be officially evaluated, you can send in an Audition and compare yourself against a standard.

Almost every time we introduce or change something we get a little bit of negativity and resistance. The most notable is that some students say they thought we've lowered our standards! Let's never lose sight that Pat knows what those standards are. This program is his; he knows what each level of Savvy looks like more than any of us. Rather than think the standards have been lowered, perhaps you should submit your own Audition and be pleasantly surprised to find that you are indeed a level

higher than you thought you were! That actually happened to me at the Tennessee Celebration in January of this year. Pat asked people to stand up if they were Level 1, 2, 3 or 4, so of course I stood up as Level 4—but he refused to recognize me. Thirty seconds later I learned why. He awarded me Level 6. I was dumbfounded, shocked and humbled. I thought I might be ready for Level 5 soon. Just goes to show that we really are our own worst judges, and Pat doesn't miss a thing.

Make sure you go to the Savvy Club website and take a look at the Parelli Pathway to see how all Four Savvys unfold and what each Level in each Savvy entails.

Horsenality™-Personality Reports!

Perhaps the most important work of last year is the Horsenality™ and Personality Reports—the computer-driven assessments that help you figure out who your horse is, who you are around your horse, how you match or mismatch and what to do about it! Longtime friend and student Patrick Handley and I have collaborated to bring you something that will really speak to your heart. It will reveal your horse at levels you may never have considered and do the same with you! Not only will you take a look at your personality; you'll look at what your personality is when you're with your horse and perhaps be really surprised at how different you are. The best part of it is to see how you match or mismatch with your horse's Horsenality™, because that is where it really counts. Rather than put your horse or yourself in a box, you'll have true understanding and the ability to flex as your horse changes his behavior according to the environment or to you! The first part of the Horsenality™ Report is to be released in May/June 2009.

Pat's University!

This year Pat invited long-term students to learn about professional horsemanship, from running a facility to training horses and teaching people. The first ambitious "extern" students are just finishing their three-month term, while others are involved in six-month programs, with just a few being invited to stay on for two years. The University program has gone to new heights as Pat unveils his vision for raising professional standards and jump-starts the professionals program of the future. Stay tuned!

Share Parelli

Another exciting launch this year, Share Parelli is the brand-new website initiative that helps you share this life-changing horsemanship program with other horse lovers. Go to www.shareparelli.com and see what it's all about. Connect with like-minded students and join us in changing the world for horses and the people who love them. Share Parelli opens up a world of new possibilities and supports you in supporting everything Parelli stands for. We can't change the world without you!

New Magazine Format

As a student myself, I want to know where various sections of the magazine are located, so in this issue you'll see the pages identified in blocks by colored tabs at the top of each page: ■ indicates news, ■ indicates Inspiration, ■ indicates education and ■ indicates Horsenality™. Now you can choose what you want to read when and go straight to it! 🐾

Right: Download your self-assessment checklist at parellisavvyclub.com

Far Right: The Parelli-Myler Cradle Bridle makes it to the cover of Fortune Magazine!

on line
SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Lines	12-foot Line	22-foot Line	45-foot Line
Tools	Can't Stick, Savvy String, Basic Skills	Can't Stick, Savvy String	Can't Stick, Savvy String, Flag (basic tool to Can't Stick)
Zones	Apprenticeship of short to directing and supporting; progressively advancing to more similar zones	Zones 1 & 2	Zone 3
Overall	Safe	Confident	Skilled
Notes	Phase 1 - 4 if needed. Hands that move slowly and open quickly. Timing of release to appropriate position. Direct use of Calm horse. PROMISE.	Phase 1 - 3. Long Phase 1, quick to 3. Phase 4 should be necessary. Use of expression, body language, defensiveness. TELL.	Phase 1 - 2. Subtle communication and direction. Alternative, responsive horse, positive expression. ASK.
	LEVEL 1 (medium short range)	LEVEL 2 (medium long range)	LEVEL 3 (long range)
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐
	☐	☐	☐



Share Parelli

The community action movement of Parelli

Imagine an uplifting place where you can interact with people who LOVE horses, who are on the SAME PATH as you are, who put the RELATIONSHIP FIRST and are committed to NEVER-ENDING SELF IMPROVEMENT and CHANGING THE WORLD for horses and the people who love them...

Now it's here. SHARE PARELLI... share your savvy, your life lessons, your passion for the benefit of horses all over the world. Share Parelli is the brainchild of Ian Hayward, who's wife Claire and two girls, Eve and Fay, are avid Parelli students. Ian is also the man behind the Mozilla Firefox web browser.

What is shareparelli.com?

The website enables people to communicate and collaborate via blog posts, comments, forums, groups, calendars and projects which members can use as a tool to collaborate and coordinate put cool ideas into action and physically do things to Share Parelli with the world.

Shareparelli.com is open to anyone who wants to help further the adoption and promotion of the Parelli program.

Shareparelli.com is publicly accessible by anyone on the internet.

Shareparelli.com is free to join.

Who is the site for?

Primarily the site is for "Parelli people" to connect with each other to use the site as a tool for collaborating to help Share Parelli with the rest of the world. You can best think of this purpose as being 80% of what the site is about.

There is a secondary purpose, which can be thought of as the other 20% of what the site is about, that is to act as a lowered on-ramp for horse lovers to see about what the Share Parelli community is doing, out in the open.

The desired effect is that horse lovers read content on the site, look at pictures and videos and gain an understanding about what people who "do Parelli" are really like, while hearing real life experiences of people just like themselves.

To help people gain a personally relevant experience, the site has what are called groups, for different types of horse riding styles or 'disciplines' as tradition likes to call them. This enables people who are into dressage to interact with others who like the same thing while others who don't compete but enjoy trail riding (hacking) can also interact with others who enjoy the same thing.

It's important to understand also that the site is also for non-horse people who appreciate the Parelli program because they have loved ones who have benefitted from it. There are thousands of spouses, proud parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends out there who will gladly help spread the word to others about Parelli if only they know how and were asked to do specific things. Share Parelli is about empowering these people to help spread the word too.

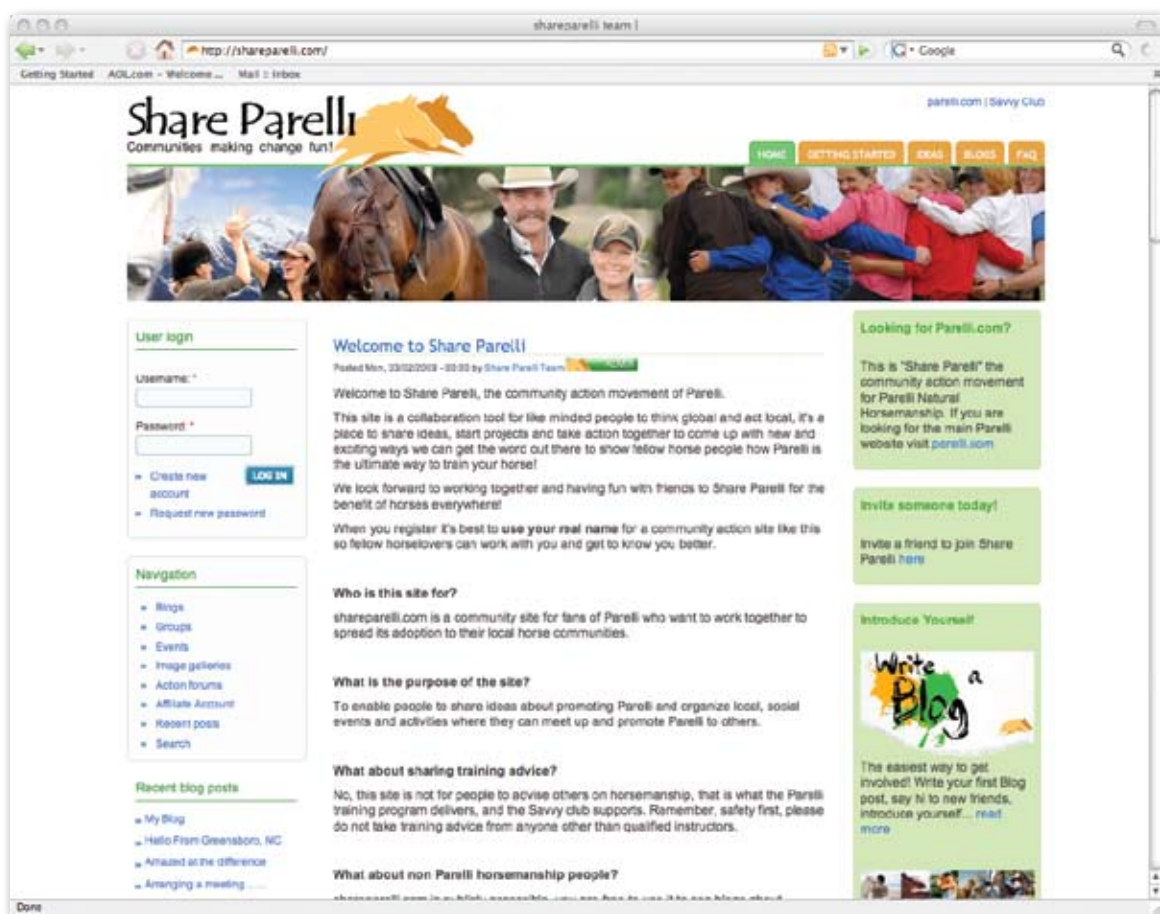
What will people be asked to do on shareparelli.com?

Participation in Share Parelli is mainly centered around each person having their own personal mini-blog system, as each person makes a blog post it gets added to the site timeline, so others can see what people are writing about.

Other registered members of the site can make comments on people's blog posts and conversations will evolve.

The idea is that we think global but act local, the site will enable people to find other members in their locality.

What does "Doing Parelli" mean to me and my horse? Using psychology to solve problems and understand my horse's nature and Horsenality. It means that I always have a source to find solutions and get help to progress in my skills in my journey to become a "Horseman." It means having the opportunity for continual self improvement...and to transfer what I learn to do with my horse to my human family and friends. —Anne C.



Some of things you will be asked to do on the site include:

1. Write a blog post to introduce yourself and your horse(s) in which we'll encourage you to say roughly how old you are, what country and region you live in and what horses you have (if any) along with any other interesting information about you.
2. Upload a picture of yourself and your horse(s) to the "hug your horse" gallery.
3. Thank a friend if you were introduced to Parelli in the past by a friend, make a blog post about it so you can say thank you to that person for sharing Parelli with you. I think it will be nice for people to take a moment to say thanks for a friend publicly on the site.
4. There is an email form where you can invite friends to join shareparelli.com
5. The site has what is called an "affiliate" system, whereby anyone with a website or blog will be asked to add one of the sites affiliate buttons to their site to promote shareparelli.com - This is not a monetary commission program, instead people will earn points for each click they send to shareparelli.com and some fun prizes will be sent out each month for the members with the most traffic sent to the site.
6. You will be asked to add a link into your email signatures and forum posts you make online to promote the site.
7. We will ask you to download a letter sized poster about Share Parelli and we'll ask you to print three copies and place them at your boarding/livery yard, tack room, local tack shop or riding school etc. Where else can you think of posting one?
8. Share ideas and much more...!

UK + Parelli + Kids = A Lot of Fun

Thirteen parents and seventeen children from ages 7–16 join us at Stoneleigh Park for our Parent and Child Horseless Workshop.

by Carmen Smith

Preparations

I was to lead our first Parent and Child workshop, and I was nervous! I had led nine other workshops and greatly enjoyed them, but they were with adults. What would kids do? How do kids think? What is their attention span?

So how does one prepare to have kids around? Well, the classroom was decorated with Parelli quizzes and an animated welcome sign, and we had extra juice and hot chocolate.

You could not have asked for a more perfect day. The sun



shone brightly over Stoneleigh Park. Parelli Professionals Jody Ruysen and Sally Brett helped everyone settle in. Adults were arriving, grinning as they introduced their sons, daughters and grandchildren.

As we began the day in the classroom with a few introductions I

could sense the kids were a little quiet. So we made a game of having the kids yell out their names and introduce themselves.

One of my favorite parts of the day was when I asked the kids what they like to do with horses, and our youngest student, Kate, whose feet didn't even touch the ground, yelled out "Parelli!"

Games, Games and More Games

We played a game about the prey/predator relationship in which the kids partnered up. In each pair, one was a horse and one was a lion that had to catch the prey animal. The horses stood in a herd grazing, with their backs to their partnered predators some 20' behind them. The predators approached, and the moment the horses felt threatened, they had to flee. I watched parents and kids running and laughing

everywhere—I was having too much fun, and the day had only just begun! Then we discussed how it feels to be a prey animal, and some of their observations were amazing: "Sometimes my horse probably just doesn't understand what I'm asking because he is scared. I could stop and start again."

Imagination Growing

Our next game was going to be at our arena, so that meant moving to a new location. At Stoneleigh Park we are among other businesses, buildings and traffic; one can get lost quite easily (speaking from personal experience here)! So we stayed together as a human herd and walked to our next location. Another brilliant opportunity to play a game, this time with soccer balls. The game was to pass the ball ten times before we got to the arena. I saw kids interacting and imagination skills growing! Each time our human herd moved the soccer balls were our friends.

Kids got to simulate good communication skills in protecting their own personal bubbles. We had a mini-tunnel ball competition that taught us a lot about feel and timing, and the blindfold communication game had us all on our toes as parents were led to obstacles with their eyes closed.

My highlight for the day was Principle # 7—horses teach riders and riders teach horses; adults teach children and children teach adults.

New Realizations and Comfort Zones

In the afternoon we visited the Parelli playground. This was really the first time during the winter season that the playground was dry enough for us. During the planning stages of this workshop Rob McAuliffe, our U.K. Center manager, had suggested using the playground. I looked at him and said, "Are you serious? I will have kids running all over that playground! How am I going to get them back?"

"Play a game," he replied. "A game where they have to race back to you."

As a group we played with throwing Carrot Sticks, catching Carrot Sticks, getting savvy with our ropes and looking at the Parelli Patterns with obstacles. So now I had to think of a game

to get the kids back to me before I turned them loose to play with some Patterns. I decided the game was that I would make a noise of some kind when they needed to come back, and the last one back would have to do something for fun! The kids wanted a Tarzan yell to be the noise. I set my herd loose to experiment with tasks, and for the first bring-back a parent made the Tarzan noise. Kids came running back, and the lucky last was made to run sideways over the bridge. I was able to practice my Tarzan noise several times that afternoon and even got a lesson from one of the kids after being told, "It really doesn't sound like that, Carmen!" I often hear Pat and Linda talk about balancing our drive and draw, and I saw that it was no different with kids.

Heading Home

Our day was nearing its end as we headed back to the classroom, where we got to hear from kids about some of their highlights: meeting other kids interested in Parelli, spending the day with Mum or Dad and being here at the Parelli Center.

My highlight for the day was Principle # 7—horses teach riders and riders teach horses; adults teach children and

children teach adults. Pat and Linda have always said that the better example you can be, the better kids will be and the more they will progress.

I would like to thank those who supported me in this workshop, adults and children. Your support, guidance and preparations were invaluable.

Keep your eyes out for more parent and child activities in the U.K. towards the end of the year! 🐾



*"Cover-All buildings
are the buildings of the future..."*



...that are here today. My Cover-All arena is what I call 'my office' so when it came to finding a special place for my special horses and my passion, I chose Cover-All. I could not think of a better product to have than Cover-All. It serves every purpose and everything that is congruent with my passion."

– Pat Parelli, Parelli Center – Pagosa Springs, CO



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Fire on the Mountain

It was only later, when I thought about what happened, that I realized how much I take for granted.

Jingera Rock

Alison, Jaffa & Cass, Wyndham, NSW, Australia

Last Saturday we received the call you never want: "There is a fire on the mountain. It is headed straight for you. Whatever your plan is, you need to do it now! Others have already evacuated."

Our hearts pounded as panic began to set in. We had only just moved the horses back to their paddock a few days earlier, thinking the threat was over; but this was a new fire, one that had been deliberately lit. Little did we know of the devastation that was taking place just over the border in Victoria. We have no TV where we are.

We had been vigilant for the past two weeks as the fire at Jingera Rock consumed over 2,000 hectares of remote wilderness, coming within about 6 kilometers of our boundary. That fire was burning away from us, and we felt confident that we and our animals were out of immediate danger.

This new fire was to the north of us and not very far away. There was a strong northerly wind blowing, and unless it was contained quickly, the threat to property and life was very real. I said, "I'm going to get the boys. Can you start the pump?"

With that, I walked (jogged) to the gate at the top of our front paddock. The boys heard me coming and met me at the gate. Within a minute I had them both haltered and started heading back to the house, where I could start hosing and preparing for the fire. The temperature was about 42°C (107.6°F), and Cass, our beautiful Quarter horse, insisted that I hose him, even dropping and rolling to lie on his back while I hosed his belly!

We were very lucky that, with so many resources in the area fighting the Jingera fire, the firefighters were able to extinguish the fire before it got to us.

It was only later, when I thought about what had happened, that I realized how much I take for granted. Our horses always meet us at the gate. Our horses always put their noses into their halters. They always lead calmly (even my Right-Brain Introvert). Our horses have learned to trust our ideas through love, language and leadership and as a result will follow us even when we are stressed! Getting our horses to a safer location quickly and effortlessly and enabling me to take on the tasks of physically protecting our space with no time lost is priceless. No chasing horses around trying to catch them, no horses hiding behind trees—these things just don't happen here. They don't happen here because everything I know about horses I learned from Parelli. I am far from a "horsemaster," but I do have a natural relationship with our horses. The relationship is always first. On Saturday I saw the payoff. It has taken me till Tuesday to realize its value. I wish I could process and learn things as fast as a horse!

I have always known that Parelli is first about safety, but I never realized how much that meant. Thanks to Parelli, the dangerous situation we faced was made much safer—and it had nothing to do with riding.

Thank you Pat, Linda and the Savvy team for teaching me what I needed to know to have the relationship I have with our beautiful horses.



Clearwind

Clare and Win, Kyneton, Victoria, Australia

Information coming in assured us that the fire was on the other side of the Kyneton Redesdale Road, though the smoke was beginning to billow over us. So often you can be “sure” a fire is just behind the hill, and it turns out that it is smoke from miles away.

I found out who was in charge on the tanker and said I needed to go and check the three horses in First Paddock. He insisted on coming with me between Win’s blazing shed and my well alight plum trees. I did wonder what his presence would do, apart from providing me company in death, but we got through to the paddock. Through the swirling smoke I could see the horses. I called them, and they came up to me long enough for me to check their backs and see that their hooves didn’t look burnt. But they didn’t stay long; burning trees were crashing around the paddock, and I had no lead rope or anything to restrain them with. They were behaving like textbook Right-Brain Extroverts. Should have had my Savvy String in my pocket!



Win set off on the motorbike for the paddock to check our seven other horses. He had a rifle slung over his back but came back amazed and joyful that the horses were miraculously okay, though the paddocks were completely burnt out and all fences gone.

One of the phone calls I made was to Kate, my carriage-driving friend. I asked her if she could bring her truck and load as many horses as possible and take them away for a week. Oh, yes, and please bring halters, as we don’t have any more. Early in the afternoon, dodging trees across the road and falling burning branches, came a convoy—Kate at the head in her blue truck, followed by a ute and stock trailer and a gooseneck. Kate had dragooned two of her friends whom we hardly even knew to help. We tracked down the horses on the fenceless black wasteland and loaded them, then came home and loaded these ones. I caught Raffles looking distinctly down his nose at the rather daggy pink plastic halter he scored (digging up ten halters and lead ropes in a hurry, Kate wasn’t able to be too fussy about colors!), but all of our horses, bless their dear hearts, climbed up into those (to them strange)

transports with lots of snorting and eye white showing. Still, none of them pulled back. None of them refused to step in. So the motley convoy wound away down the road, and Kate has apparently put it to the harness community that they have to come up with people prepared to take a minimum two of our horses and keep them for three months. This was fabulous practical help. It means we don’t have to fuss about fences or feed or even water for the horses. From time to time I wish one of them was here so I could bury my face in his mane and howl, but on balance it is so much better for them to be well away from here.

We have our horses, our house and ourselves. Many are much worse off.

We are learning how wonderful our family and friends are. And also those we don’t know. By the first mail that got through after the fires, a knobbly parcel arrived full of horse gear from a complete stranger. A horse group in West Australia wants to send us \$200 of their club funds to help rebuild our fences. Some carriage drivers came by with a float (trailer) full of fencing materials. Unfortunately, I couldn’t persuade them to take the materials home and leave us the float! Win took my car to the detailers to get the terrible smell removed, and they refused payment. The love and goodwill of everyone is so heartwarming. Win and I will be forever humble and grateful. 🐾

From Linda's Laptop

February 3, 2009

Well, it's Tuesday, and I woke up tired! What a terrible admission! I pride myself on never being tired, but when I think about the last two months I realize I have every right to be! Pat hit the wall on Friday night, but after some tender loving care and nutrition he woke up fresh as a daisy to tackle Saturday head on!

The Franklin, TN Celebration was great fun for us. The best part was what so many of you told me there—that it felt more intimate, more connected. Being able to do the questions and answers gave it a whole new dimension, and now that we've experienced our first foray into this we'll be looking at ways to improve it for the next time. We loved it! It makes us feel more connected, too.

After every show we do our own "highlights". Here are a few from Pat, and then some from me.

Pat's highlights:

1. The Spotlights!

Pat and his team have worked long and hard on this. Despite months of work and trials and tweaks, you never quite know what's going to happen until the big day when it debuts.

We were so impressed by everyone in the spotlight, it took the word "competition" out of competition when we saw everyone doing their best and putting their relationship first no matter what. For sure there were people feeling disappointed at first that they couldn't show what they wanted to—their horse was afraid of the crowd or didn't recognize the human that showed up that day—but the best part was that the crowd loved it! They felt it all and admired how it was handled. The horse and the relationship were definitely put first. This concept will revolutionize competition, change industry standards. No more winners and losers—only winners, including the horse!

2. Beau, the rescue horse from the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Not only was it great for Pat to have three sessions with him, it was great for us to see how deep Pat dug to find his fear and show him that he didn't need to be afraid anymore . . . and we saw what "put the relationship first" meant at every level.

In case you don't know, there were just under a dozen applicants to adopt Beau, and Pat played matchmaker for Hors-

enality™ and personality + experience to find the perfect match. On top of that, he offered three months of further development of Beau "on the house."

The song Mary Ann Kennedy co-wrote with Katie Drake was a wonderful anthem for this—"Ready for a Change"—and we played it as our theme all weekend. You can get it on iTunes, and one day it will be on a CD.

3. Amy Book's performance

Oh my gosh, talk about the audience shooting to their feet with a standing ovation! Her performances were outstanding, and what we've seen is a whole new level of growth in her showmanship. We all know how well she's doing because we've watched her grow up in this program, but the way she planned her demonstration with Prince was masterful. She put the relationship first as she and Prince played On Line, at Liberty and FreeStyle with exuberance and skill and saved the best for last. There was barely a dry eye in the house. And that's not to diminish any of the other performances from instructors and Pat's team; they were fantastic and great learning experiences all around.

4. Linda's Level 6

I'm okay with this not being number 1 on his list. But here's the deal: You aren't it until you are. I don't wonder when I'm going to be awarded my next level; I just keep progressing. My horses are the first to recognize my savvy, and then they tell Pat. And that's how it should be with you, too; you'll know when you're there because your horses will tell you, and you just need to look at the self-assessment criteria to be sure. After that you can decide if you want to go for official assessment.

5. The Bannister Boys

The two young sons of Julie and Simon Bannister (our Florida Center manager) get to play with our miniature horses, Barnum and Bailey. They first performed at our Jacksonville event last year, but this time they had a show worked out. We laughed until our sides ached, and of course they got a standing ovation. We should have ended the show right then! How do you beat that?

6. The Saturday Night Dance!

Mostly the part where Pat got to play his new logo-shaped guitar, given to him by friends! He jumped up on stage with Tim Sullivan and his band and rocked on. I was coerced to

sing (a long way from the microphone!) with my sister Viv, here from Australia, who actually can sing really well! It was a lot of fun.

When you do the right foundation exercises the fancy stuff follows, but if you do the fancy stuff every day your horse gets tired, bored and stressed. So I save the big stuff for the shows.

Linda's highlights:

1. Remmer

Now why would that be a surprise?!

Remmer really turned it on and played with me so exuberantly, I couldn't have been more complimented. Something you may not know is that I don't do this on a regular basis at home. What do I do? You guessed it: Patterns. We took our Figure 8 pattern to a whole new place, and it was the sixth time on that pattern for us. When you do the right foundation exercises the fancy stuff follows, but if you do the fancy stuff every day your horse gets tired, bored and stressed. So I save the big stuff for the shows. That's when I ask for his everything, and boy, did he give it to me! Man, I love that horse. He has taught me so much about Horsenality, patience, creativity, psychology . . . I have to put into practice everything Pat has taught me.

2. Allure

Yep, okay. . .that should have been a no-brainer for you, too. Allure was amazing. He keeps on improving and giving me huge feedback. As I said in my presentation, if only I was Level 6 when I got him! I'm only just starting to know how to be the best partner for him. Talk about a savvy education!

3. My lesson with Walter Zettl

As always, this is a stretch! He never leaves my mind alone for one moment— well, except when he was talking with all of you in the audience. This is such a journey for me, to reach for that next level and find a way to get my mind and body to do what it takes, let alone do the right thing for Remmer. So often my fluidity goes out the window, but I'm getting better at it all the time. Only so many things you can juggle at one time, and it's a great reminder to be gentle on yourself as a student. Walter is such a master, he knows exactly when to ask for what. And as a master horseman, he knows what the horse needs. In the Q & A at the end someone asked if the lesson would be different if I were riding Allure, and he replied, "Completely different!" He adjusts to each Horsenality automatically, as all

great horsemen instinctively do. We are so privileged to have Walter want to be part of the Celebrations.

4. Getting the Levels Pathway done!

This is the reason I feel so tired right now! I've been on adrenaline overdrive for the past three months (not to mention the trusty team that's been helping me!), and to have it ready to launch at Franklin was huge. Now, we don't have every detail in place; that will take another couple of weeks. But finally we have the new Levels Pathway in place to follow. It is so simple now and will encourage you to make faster progress than ever before. Not that you can rush horsemanship, but there's been plenty of delay out there for far too long! It is now much more simple.

5. The Q&As

Being a teacher at heart, I just love interacting with you all. I love to hear your questions and be able to answer them. So doing that after my Horsenality session and then that special session during the break on Sunday was definitely a highlight for me.

6. The whole energy of the event!

We said the Celebrations are going to be the "Savvy Conference on the Road," but inside, admittedly, I had some reservations. How were we going to recreate that special magic of having it at our home? Apart from it not being at home in Pagosa, with those magnificent mountains as the backdrop, I would have to say that this event exceeded my expectations in every way. The new level of intimacy and connection was wonderful for me, for both Pat and me. And this may be hard for some of you to grasp, but when we have thousands of students at an event it's been hard to figure out how to get more connected unless you are in line to see us! So I think this is it. It feels more like class at our Parelli Center courses, more two-way. We can't wait for the next one.

In closing, just know there is so much more in the wings.

Pat leaked some of his future plans that finally reveal all the levels he's been talking about for so many years and it's all very exciting. Just know that some of this will become visible and available soon, but most of what he envisions usually takes us 6–24 months to implement, and sometimes as long as five years! That's how big a thinker our leader is.

So Franklin, TN Celebration is now under our belt. It went by quickly, but the warm, fuzzy memory is burning bright, and we're thinking about what we can do better next time. You know how it goes: Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Get your good better and your better best.

Wishing you savvy and success as you keep it natural,

Linda

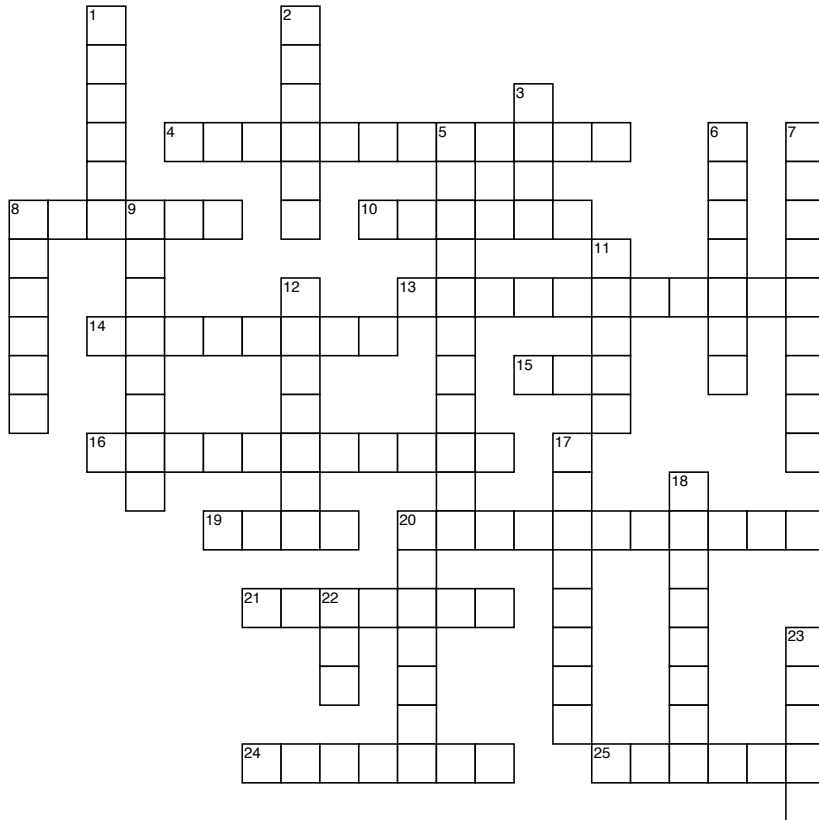
Crossword Puzzles

Go to parellisavvyclub.com for the answers!

Parelli Puzzle

I love all the Parelli-isms, like "Do less sooner rather than more later" and "Pressure motivates, but it's the release that teaches." I used a few in this crossword puzzle but would like to do a puzzle made entirely of Parelli quotes sometime. They also help me remember what I need to be doing or not doing when playing with my horses.

—Bill Kamke, Coleman, WI, U.S.



ACROSS

- 4 Make sure to attend one of this year's Parelli _____
- 8 Name of Pat's stallion
- 10 Name of Linda's Dutch Warmblood
- 13 Left-Brain Extrovert....
- 14 First of the Seven Keys
- 15 It's ___ about the trailer
- 16 Have an _____ seat
- 19 Good, better, best, never let it _____.
- 20 The nineteenth P
- 21 Keep it _____
- 24 Lateral & vertical _____
- 25 _____ Stick

DOWN

- 1 Online, Freestyle, Liberty & Finesse....
- 2 Parelli _____ Pathway
- 3 From the tail of the horse back is ____ 5.
- 5 One of Pat Parelli's mentors
- 6 3rd of the Seven Games
- 7 What to join for more resources
- 8 _____ Bridle
- 9 Touch It, Figure 8 & Weave....
- 11 Pretzel, Bowline & Shoelace are _____
- 12 The Parelli _____ Series
- 17 If he's blinking, he's _____.
- 18 Liberty & Horse _____
- 20 Pat & Linda _____
- 22 I've never seen it take longer than ____ days.
- 23 When you take the halter and lead rope off, the only thing left is the _____.

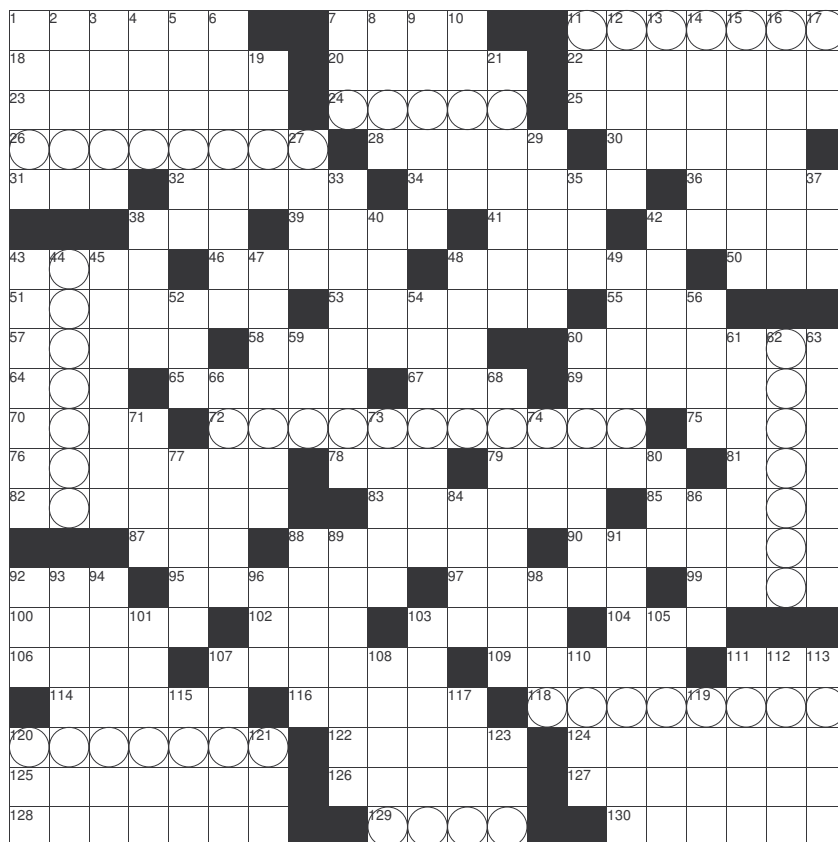
Just Horsin' Around Matt Ginsberg and Pamela Kinion

ACROSS

1. Raisin portions
7. "... in no way, shape or form"
11. Out of control
18. Physics principle
20. Journalist Nin
22. Relative of the buttercup
23. Flower-bearing shrub
24. Fast
25. Horse houses
26. The first game
28. Defeats a dragon
30. Toss from a horse
31. Healthy-horse connection
32. U.S. ballistic missile
34. Scarlett's love
36. Horse's refusal
38. "It's no ___!" (cry of despair)
39. "I ___ Grow Up": "Peter Pan" song
41. "Give us this day ___ daily bread"
42. Have children, biblically
43. 11's in blackjack
46. "___ Fly Now" (#1 hit of 1977)
48. Horse pen
50. Actors Harris and Begley
51. Attacks verbally
53. Frightens, as a horse
55. No, slangily
57. Become a factor
58. Chimney cleaners
60. #1 song for Toto
64. Act immorally
65. Colonial patriot ___ Allen
67. About when the plane lands, at LAX
69. Menu items
70. Bad place to drop a heavy box
72. Theme of this puzzle
75. Baseball team V.I.P.'s
76. Make roadkill of
78. First lady?
79. Laundry dirt
81. Gardner of "The Barefoot Contessa"
82. Fred of "Top Hat"
83. Scared (of)
85. Mountaineer's support
87. 66, famously (abbr.)
88. Horse ___ (freewheeling negotiator)
90. Bleep, as bad words
92. Grand ___ (wine designation)
95. Append
97. The better-looking Parelli
99. Irish-Gaelic
100. Lawmen on horseback
102. \$20 bill dispenser
103. "Don't move, Spot!"
104. Silent movie horseman Mix
106. Assist, as a criminal
107. Jury number, commonly
109. Pertaining to birth
111. Info on a good racehorse
114. Dead ___ (penniless or calm, as a horse)
116. Big name in tractors
118. Indecisive
120. Mutinous
122. The number of games
124. City in Spain
125. Builder
126. Extra tire
127. No-goodnik
128. Ugly sight
129. At a snail's pace
130. "So the bartender ___ the horse ..."

DOWN

1. Descending notes in a scale
2. Burns
3. "___ vincit amor" (love conquers all)
4. "Bone" word form
5. Puts in the ground
6. City known for its zoo
7. Common Web site section, for short
8. Unpleasant responsibility
9. Chew out
10. Flaky minerals
11. ___ de deux
12. All keyed up
13. Less than average, tide-wise
14. Drink
15. Artistic hodgepodge
16. Rang at a funeral
17. "Aye, aye!"
19. Animation pioneer Disney
21. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's signature shot
27. A good sign from a skittish horse
29. Belittling comments
33. Poppcock
35. Bet on the wrong horse
37. Chess horses (abbr.)
38. Letter carriers' grp.
40. Mane locale
42. ___ from the past
43. Part of Kansas' motto
44. Inquisitive
45. At the top of one's field
47. Landed
48. ___ Mesa, Calif.
49. Unnamed person
52. "Get what I mean?"
54. Allowing for modification
56. Allure's blood type?
59. Famed racehorse Man O' ___
60. No longer working
61. One who denies
62. On edge
63. Leading man Armand
66. Eric from Norway
68. North African resident
71. Go up, up, up
73. Aquafina competitor
74. Retirement plan, briefly
77. Curriculum ___: brief resume
80. Prefix for center or cycle
84. Saddlepad shim material
86. Agenda element
88. Carried around
89. Like some glasses
91. Computer input
92. Apr. workhorse
93. Theft
94. Bridge toll, e.g.
96. Horseshoe-shaped bone
98. When repeated, a child's taunt
101. Zeno and disciples
103. African wildcat
105. John's co-star in "Grease"
107. Male voice
108. Gore and Cheney, for short
110. "The Lover of Horses" author Gallagher
111. Chats
112. Narrow waterway
113. Dactyl starter
115. Green Hornet's sidekick
117. Architect Saarinen
119. Itty-bitty
120. "Zip-a-___-Doo-Dah"
121. Past due?
123. Parelli Levels Pathway, for example



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I'm the horse-crazy one in the family. Matt really isn't into horses at all. But he is a very good crossword creator. When I saw your request for puzzles I was excited, because finally there was something we could do together! He evidently felt the same way, because we both jumped on the project and had it finished in no time!

—Pamela Kinion, Eugene, OR, U.S.



Ready for a Change

by Katie Drake

Last fall I took a step way outside of my comfort zone and decided to take a trip to Nashville, TN. I wasn't quite sure what I'd do when I got there but knew somehow it was the next important step on my journey as a singer/songwriter.

I felt extremely unconfident about the whole idea of making the trip alone, so I decided to email the one person I knew in Nashville who could help make my trip a success. Mary Ann Kennedy answered my request and graciously offered not only to let me stay with her for a few days, but to take me around town and introduce me to some people in the business. With an offer that good, I knew I had to push past my insecurities and book a ticket. I was still really nervous, but as I was nearly

eight months pregnant, I knew the time to make this trip was now or never (or at least not for a long while).

The couple days I spent with Mary Ann were incredible. We went all over town meeting people, and when we weren't doing that we were talking nonstop! Sometime while I was there Mary Ann brought up an idea Linda Parelli had mentioned to her about the two of us co-writing a song for the upcoming 2009 Parelli Celebrations. I was excited and

scared at the same time. Mary Ann has done a lot of co-writing in her career, and I had written all of one song with someone else. We both agreed it would be fun to at least give it a try, because we might come up with something really special. Mary Ann had an idea already brewing for a song she wanted to call "Ready for a Change."

"When you keep on doing what you've always done, you'll keep on getting what you've always gotten. The winds of change are runnin' through my veins, but this voice inside me, it keeps on talkin'!"

My trip to Nashville ended too soon, so we didn't get much writing in before I had to go. That just meant we were going to have to write the song over the phone. I was still a bit nervous, but amazingly, by the end of our first conversation we had written over half the song! I was awed at how easily the process took place. The song's words resonated so much with both of us that it almost wrote itself. We worked great as a team. Mary Ann would have a rough idea in mind and an incredibly catchy tune, and I was good at taking her ideas and crafting lyrics. Within just two phone calls and a couple emails back and forth, the process of writing the song was complete!

The next step was figuring out how to get the song recorded. Since I was about to have my baby, there was no more flying for me. Mary Ann produced the record



and was able to secure some of the top players in Nashville to lend their special magic to the recording...these guys play with the likes of Faith Hill, Keith Urban, Wynonna and Reba McEntire. Then, a couple of weeks after Jack Drake arrived, I was able to get into the studio down here in Florida and record my vocals.

What made the process even more fulfilling was that from the very first lines I felt a personal connection with the song. "When you keep on doing what you've always done, you'll keep on getting what you've always gotten. The winds of change are runnin' through my veins, but this voice inside me, it keeps on talkin'." That voice inside talking me out of change is none other than the familiar voice of fear. Afraid that taking the step of change in my life would lead to failure, I stay stuck in a perpetual cycle of procrastination and avoidance.

The times when I've been able to take a step at a time, no matter how small, I've been able to break free from fear's stronghold and move toward my dreams. Taking that trip to Nashville was a perfect example. It often takes a lot of encouragement from family and friends, but when I've been able to complete a step in my journey of change, the feeling is absolutely exhilarating!

I suspect I'm not alone, and that this story may ring true for many others. That's why Mary Ann and I are both so excited

to be sharing this song with you. "Ready for a Change" was born out of the feelings described above, about how often we get talked out of change by our fear and the feeling that the mountaintop dreams we have are unattainable.



Mary Ann Kennedy

I really hope this song encourages those who hear it to consider what they dream to do, and that it inspires them to start on the incredible journey, be it one small step at a time. Are you ready for a change?

Note: "Ready for a Change" will be featured at the 2009 Parelli Celebrations. Mary Ann Kennedy and Katie Drake have each recorded a version of the song, and both versions are available for download on iTunes. Visit www.maryannkennedy.com or www.katiedrakesongs.com for more information. Other music by Mary Ann and Katie is available for purchase at Parelli Celebrations in the U.S. as well as online at parellicollection.com and itunes.com. 🐾



Global Community

Reader submissions from around the world

Some "C's" for Pat!

Shelley Dunkin, Cedar, Michigan

First you need to give the horse a Choice, don't force or make.

Then the horse can become Curious.

Once you have curiosity you can get Confidence.

When you have confidence you can have a learning Communication that will create Connection, and when you get Connection . . . Celebrate!



Touch the Hero Inside

Noreen Campbell, Newark, Delaware

When I started volunteering at Greener Pastures Horse Rescue, one of the horses I noticed first was a bay Thoroughbred with one white sock and a teardrop of white on his forehead. If I would enter the paddock to groom, the other horses would crowd around, vying for attention, but not this bay. He hung back, staying just beyond the edges of the group, never directly looking at me, never allowing himself to be touched.

All summer I tried to get near enough to Jody to groom him. I would approach, and if he started to move away, I would retreat. Approach and retreat, like an elegant dance of predator and prey. If I went into the paddock when the horses were eating, I could sometimes stroke Jody's neck. But he never tolerated my touch for long before he would move away.

Summer became fall, and occasionally Jody would stand for a few moments to be brushed. He only looked out of the corner of one eye, sometimes with eyes half closed, as if he had drawn way inside himself in order to allow this brushing. He was tense, withdrawn, not enjoying the scratching of the curry comb or the stroking of the brush on his skin.

In winter Jody would occasionally let me approach him and would take a carrot from my hand, but he wouldn't let me put a blanket on his back. Often I would see him huddled at the end of the run-in shed, looking cold and miserable, and it saddened me that there was so little I could do to bring comfort to this quiet animal.

By spring I could put a halter on Jody and hold him for the blacksmith. He would stand to be brushed and no longer flinched

at my touch, but I still couldn't sense that he took any pleasure in my company. Yet I approached him every day, spoke to him in soft tones and rubbed the dirt from his back with my fingers. I would rub him until he chose to walk away.

For fourteen months Jody and I performed this ballet, always with me in the lead, approach and retreat, until last week, when one day I entered the paddock and Jody walked toward me, first one hesitant step and then another, until he stood beside me. I began scratching at the base of his mane, starting from the withers and going up his neck. Slowly he stretched his neck forward and down and began to work his lips. I scratched harder. He sighed and closed his eyes. I could feel his body relax, and I could tell he was enjoying this contact that he had finally invited. When I stopped scratching, Jody turned his head toward me and looked at me with both soft chocolate eyes. We can never know exactly what our horses are thinking about us, but at this moment, with this horse, I'm sure he was thinking, "Thank you for not giving up on me!"

For the past year and a half I have been studying Parelli. I now recognize Jody as a Right-Brain Introvert. I now understand that it took time for him to trust me and to feel secure in my presence. I now know that it was only by giving him the freedom to choose to walk away that I gained that trust. I have learned it is not about how fast you make progress with any particular horse but only that you continue to learn so you will make progress.

Working with rescue horses takes time and patience. It requires us to reach inside ourselves to find our own quiet, confident place where we can ask instead of telling, allow instead of demanding. It requires us to give the horses the freedom to choose. With our rescue horses sometimes we make progress only in baby steps. But string enough small steps together and we can bridge any gap of neglect or abuse and bring even the most withdrawn animal out of his shell, and in doing that, we touch the hero that lives inside us.

Parelli Matchmaking!

Parelli Professionals Jake Shoemark and Helen Topp celebrated their marriage in Braidwood, NSW, Australia on December 6, 2008. Family, school and Parelli friends



traveled from various locations to join the happy couple's celebration. Everyone in the worldwide Parelli family wishes them health, happiness and a joyous life, naturally!

Merci Beaucoup!

Cathy, Eric, JarJar et Ipsos, Alcace. Kunheim, France

(Translated to English by Carmen Zulauf)

Four years ago we started with Parelli. We do not speak English, which has slowed our progression with our horses dramatically. Up to Level 2 we got a bit of benefit from the original Savvy Systems but found ourselves isolated and quickly lost our motivation, left alone, without support, without new ideas and without this little spark that lights the enthusiasm. Of course we bought a DVD, but we quickly abandoned it. It was too difficult to understand. Our lack of motivation quickly had negative repercussions, and at the end we stopped progressing in the relationship with our horses. This was really frustrating, and on top of that we felt very guilty. We felt as if we had lied to our horses, starting something beautiful and then leaving them in the middle of the journey.



In December we heard that the Savvy Club was going to be partially translated into French, especially the monthly DVDs, and we immediately signed up. We finally found ourselves members of the

Parelli International Savvy Club! The January DVD on trailer loading has already given us many new perspectives. We also received the last issue of *Savvy Times*, which, with the help of a dictionary, is a mine full of extraordinary information. We know that the translations are a huge job, and we really would like to say a warm and sincere "thank you" to all those who are involved with it. You have no idea how much this means to us and to our horses! *Merci!*

Danke Schön

Susanna, Austria (Translated into English by Ursula Schuster)

I am a 38-year-old horse lover. They are the most fascinating creatures! I learned riding when I was a young girl at a typically boring riding school. After a few years I had enough of the stiff teaching and rules. Each lesson was the same, but against all odds, horses never lost their fascination for me.

Eight years ago I saved an eight-year-old, terribly frightened, dangerous stallion from the butcher. I had never seen a horse with so much spirit, beauty, doubt, life, character and fear. He had never been out on the grass before. He had also been mistreated

by his humans. In letting him be a horse, I turned him out and changed his suspicions about me. But we were still 100,000 miles away from a real partnership!

Accidentally I met Ursula Schuster, an official Parelli instructor, in Austria, and she invited me to her play day. It changed everything. Swiss Parelli Instructor Adrian Heinen showed how easy, funny, soft and safe he is when he rides and plays with his mule. The same day I booked a Level 1 course because I wanted to learn everything about horses. I became a Savvy Club member and sucked up all the information I could get. Ursula and her husband Georg allowed me to use their gelding, Blitz, to learn-learn-learn and get good enough for my sweet stallion. The greatest hurdle was my very poor English, and I had to visit the DVDs with a dictionary in my hands.



Now the Parelli Team has done another job of problem solving for me with the January 2009 Savvy Club DVD translated into German! Thank you and the worldwide team, including all my mentors, for solving my problems and supporting my learning. For the future I hope all of us strive to make it a better world for horses and humans. So please don't change gait and direction and let us participate in your great experience! Thank to all of you so much for doing such a great job.

More "P's" for Pat Parelli!

Tricia Sybersma, Cayman Islands

I came up with these after my course at the Florida Parelli Center: "The Parelli Pause" and here's what it stands for:

- P - Parelli students
- A - actively
- U - using
- S - savvy
- E - excellently

I have already found myself using a "Parelli Pause" as only a Parelli student can!



Learning to Solve the Problem of Solving the Problem

by Dr. Jean Lewis

Did you ever find yourself sitting at a meeting at work or in class at school, and your mind drifted off to thoughts of playing with your horse, your riding, working on your Levels, Patterns, etc.?



Yep—me, too! In fact, not too long ago I was attending a faculty retreat at the university where I work (Nova Southeastern University in south Florida), watching a really interesting academic presentation on the latest concepts in university-level teaching—something called Problem-Based Learning (PBL). And right in the middle of the presentation my mind jumped from university teaching/learning to the wonderful courses I have taken at the Parelli Centers. Seem like an unlikely connection? Turns out that Linda and her Parelli faculty have been utilizing these state-of-the-art PBL teaching

concepts at the Centers for a while now. How fabulous! Let me share some of the basic concepts of PBL with you (I promise no academic edu-babble), and you will understand why I was so excited to see the connection.

Problem-Based Learning is a student-centered teaching strategy in which students are presented with open-ended problems to solve (not just content and facts), and the instructor acts more as a mentor or facilitator—not just a source of answers or solutions to the problem. Both student and teacher roles change from what is traditional. *The students*

assume more responsibility for their own learning, giving them a sense of accomplishment and (most important) setting them up to be lifelong problem solvers, while the faculty become resources, mentors and evaluators, guiding the students in their problem-solving rather than handing out solutions. In a nutshell, the PBL faculty show the students how to solve the problem of solving the problem. And sometimes this role change is a bit uncomfortable for both the faculty and the students, but it leads to curiosity, experimentation and discovery and produces students who are confident problem-solvers who can *apply* those skills to all kinds of future situations.

The students assume more responsibility for their own learning, giving them a sense of accomplishment and (most important) setting them up to be lifelong problem solvers...

That description of teaching and learning is *exactly* what students experience in courses at the Parelli Center! For those of you who have been fortunate enough to have taken courses there over the past three years, you've already realized how close the description of PBL is to the teaching that Linda and her faculty engage in during courses—and how uncomfortable you might have felt at the beginning of the course when the faculty would not simply hand you a solution to your problem. What did they do instead? They answered questions with questions, challenged you to come up with your own possible solutions to problems, hid behind trees to observe you (and make sure you were safe) and listened to each person in *remudas* so that everyone could hear about solutions they found. And when your course was finished, I know you went home with a new understanding about your horse and a new understanding about yourself, feeling truly confident that you could solve your own problems every day you play with horses—the horse you own now or one in the future!

The courses at the Parelli Center are an amazing opportunity for learning and personal growth. Students experience cutting-edge teaching techniques and learn skills that can be applied to every aspect of their lives (not just horses). If you have never taken a course, I encourage you to do so. I've just come back from another two weeks in January and had a major breakthrough with my mule, Jake. As they

so often say, it's not about what you can do while you're there as much as what you'll be ready to do when you get home. I'm thrilled to say that things with Jake have continued to improve. I've learned a lot about myself once again.

If you are interested in knowing more about PBL, you are welcome to contact me at lewisj@nova.edu. Keep it natural! 🐾

Resources

The Practice of Problem-Based Learning: A Guide to Implementing PBL in the College Classroom by Jose A. Amador, Libby Miles, and Calvin B. Peters

Bringing Problem-Based Learning to Higher Education: Theory and Practice: New Directions for Teaching and Learning by Luann Wilkerson and Wim H. Gijssels

Facilitating Problem-Based Learning by Maggi Savin-Baden

Problem-Based Learning: An Inquiry Approach by John Barell

Jean's Bio

I have worked at Nova Southeastern University for nearly 30 years, first as the director of admissions and later as Dean of Adjunct Faculty for the School of Education. Just recently the university allowed me to change professional roles slightly and move to Tennessee to

build the horse farm of my dreams and work entirely online (lucky me!), so my university work now focuses on recruiting, assessing and hiring new faculty.

I've ridden since I was a child—moving from Western to English (hunting) to dressage (competitive). These days my interests are strictly pleasure/trail riding and hanging out with my two horses and three mules, although learning more about driving is my latest interest. My involvement with Parelli goes back to 2001, when a good friend introduced me to a new way to start my Quarter Horse colt.



A Driving Passion

by Norma Vela

I asked Paula Knickerbocker to tell me the highlights of her exciting life, and she hardly hesitated.

"Oh, goodness, there's so much! How do I pick?"

Absolutely, so much! The long and amazing life of Paula Knickerbocker would certainly produce wonderful stories. I quickly tried to guess what her highlights might be. Perhaps Paula would tell me stories of riding her first pony, May Queen, who had two gaits: stop and go. Paula might tell of riding Saddlebreds in Illinois with her grandfather in the '50s. Perhaps she would tell of her adventures while fox hunting, galloping across open fields. Surely the day Paula met Prince Phillip would rank, or driving her pair of Friesians in her first parade with the Governor of Nevada in her carriage! I certainly expected Paula to tell me of her magical first meeting with Friesian horses and the moment when she knew she "had to have 'em." I happily anticipated hearing any of these wonderful stories as we sat together at the 2008 Savvy Conference in Pagosa Springs. What did Paula choose as the highlight of her life?

"I'd have to say coming here [to Pagosa Springs] and learning and getting the communication. Finding out things that I could do with my big Friesians because of watching what Pat and Linda do. And *waiting* and learning to take the time that it takes! This is my life. I want to be good at this."

Paula is definitely passionate about Parelli. "I want to have fun with my horses. You know, the fact that I could go to Florida and keep up with the rest of 'em. They're half my age, and I'm running around on the hill!" Paula grins. "On the application I put 101 for my age." In truth, Paula is a few decades younger than that. "I just love to have fun. Ribbons? If I get one"—she shrugs—"but if I can be a partner and keep the relationship first, if I can help the Parellis through their foundation and help horses have a better life, that's what I want."

It was Paula's passion for horses that led her to see Pat Parelli at a tour stop in Montana. Although she had already spent a lifetime riding and as a horse owner, she was immediately attracted to the relationship Pat had with his horse and thought, "This is what I want to do."

Driving had always been in her blood. As a child, Paula says, "I had a little pony, and I'd tie the Flexible Flyer sled to the saddle and off we'd go!" She admits that she "grew up with kick 'em to go, pull 'em to stop. And I must've had a guardian angel before I got into this."

Fifteen years ago in Nevada, Paula says, "I was just starting to drive, and I had gotten two Friesians. The parade committee

asked me, 'Can you take the governor in the parade?'

Now, parades are *bears*, and I didn't have any training. I had just *started*. I didn't have any insurance. But I had my big guy Ingbert [17 hh]. We stood there in line, and here come 25 camels right by him." Paula was delighted as her "big guy" seemed to say, "I've seen animals, but nothing like that." "He just stood there! We had the elephant behind us and the Governor's family! I thought, *what could have gone wrong!*"

Everything went fine, but these days Paula admits safety is her big issue. "I know what can go wrong, I've seen what can go wrong. If I'm not ready, I won't do it." Paula studied driving with Dr. Leslie Kozsely, who himself had trained at the Spanish School of Riding. "He had great feel and empathy for his horses. And he taught me one, two, three, and I'm up to four. I can drive four. He said I had a talent for driving." Paula grins proudly. "Isn't that great?" I'd say so, yes!

Paula currently has a collection of twelve carriages, all different shapes and sizes. "I have a stagecoach and, oh, I had these dreams of driving a stagecoach, but I don't think it's a good idea. You're sitting way up there; I don't like height. But I could see *Pat Parelli* with a stagecoach."

Paula also admits to wanting to stay "closer to the ground" when riding and has taken her Icelandic buddy well into Level 2. "I don't ride my Friesians. I like to *ride* a little horse and *drive* a big one!" Paula exudes pride in the result of her Parelli studies. "This little Icelandic was afraid of everything and everybody, and now he comes to me. I say, 'Come on, let's go!' And off we go! They catch me; I never catch my horses. I realized that your relationship starts the minute you make eye contact. And everything you do means something. And constantly be aware of not being predatory. It's so easy to flip back into these habits. You've got to watch every little thing, whether it's trailer loading, bridling. And I've learned with my big Friesian who had a bridling problem." He's 17 hands of Friesian attitude—that can be a bridling problem.

Before she learned Parelli techniques, Paula says, it was a constant challenge. "He would put his head down to take the bit. Sometimes he'd take it, then he'd throw his head up and everything would come off." With her patient persistence, Paula has seen real change. "He's not quite where I want him to be,

but I can halter him this way," she says, as tiny Paula wraps her arms around him as though hugging a pony. "And he *reaches* for that halter. The bridle, the same thing. And I just wait. I've learned the value of just waiting for your horse. Let it be his idea. Take the time that it takes.

"All these little things that Pat says, I'm going to put around my barn. 'Take the time it takes so it takes less time. Prior and proper preparation.' It applies to everything. There are no shortcuts. And I see out in the normal world . . . goodness. I don't say anything unless someone's going to get hurt. Don't force it; let them pick up on the idea.

"I don't like horse shows," says Paula, "because it's like Pat shared: 'teaching little girls to hate other little girls.' The only horse show I go to is the Royal Windsor Horse Show, because I never see any abuse. Horses are traveling naturally, and under-saddle classes are walk, trot, canter and *hand gallop*. Then the King's Troop, pulling caissons—they come in at a dead run. The Queen loves her horses, and she knows every horse there. And Phillip still drives the Fell ponies. I got to meet him, because I was in the Member's Tent. Little me, I met Prince Phillip. And the Queen walks around, and everyone stands aside when she wants to watch. There are some very kind drivers, and we'd boo the rough drivers. When you get into Parelli," Paula notes, "you become very observant about what's going on with horse-handling out there."

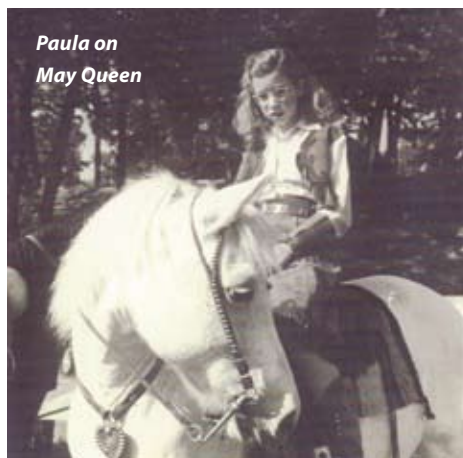
Paula's latest goal is to complete her Level 2. "I think I can do it. I've got a lot of the ground skills. I can do a lot of the 22-foot Line with him already. He's such a challenging little horse. The Icelandics, they're tough and they're smart and they're sensitive. He's all those. He's come around so much. Putting your heart in your hand just makes such a difference. I'm having such fun with Natural Horsemanship—I can put those horses here, there, and play all these little games! I've had my runaways—it's not *if* you'll have a runaway, it's *when*. And it can happen just like that."

Learning from Pat about the value of prior and proper preparation, Paula is emphatic. "It's going to save your life." She says Parelli has helped hitching up take less time: "When we line them up to hitch them, we used to take the traces and pull," she recalls, the struggle clear in her voice. Then she grins. "Now I just touch and he moves over, and then I rub. Every little thing counts. This has literally saved my life: Parelli. I've been through a lot of emotional ups and downs, a lot of pain, a lot of hurt. This has given me a goal. I really want to get good at what I do. I'm so grateful for Pat and Linda. I think they're super people. They're always looking for new ideas and new things. I like the openness. And it's all about partnership. It's principles before purpose." Paula is downright exuberant. "There's so much to learn. What I like about the Savvy Club with the DVDs once a month is that I can go back. That's the most wonderful thing that they've done."

I can feel that I've kept Paula sitting still for too long now; she's a gal who needs to move her feet. As her attention goes to the team of horses being driven past for the next presentation at the Savvy Conference, I promise to wrap it up. "Oh, no, I could talk about Parelli forever!" She gives me a huge smile. "I feel so blessed with all I have, so I try to give back. I love to help people, help animals. I want to spread this word. Life is for the living! I'm not a 'someday' person, I'm now!" She certainly is!

Later in the day I run into Paula again and she slips me a note. It reads, "If the whole world could run on the Parelli philosophy of Love, Language and Leadership, wouldn't it be a wonderfully peaceful place in which to live?" I couldn't agree more.

The Paula Knickerbocker Foundation supports traditional carriage driving and regularly donates to classic jazz music programs in schools (jazz is her other passion) and nonprofit equine projects. 🐾



Paula on
May Queen



courtesy photos

Take the Time It Takes

by Christine Massinger

We who study Parelli know that Pat uses many famous quotations in his teachings. "Horses are like snowflakes. Don't ask a trying horse to try. Horses can only do six things: go forwards, backwards. . ."

As students, it is interesting for us to hear these phrases we have grown to know, and it's fun for us to repeat them, but do we really understand the meaning behind these phrases? I thought I did. My Right-Brain Introvert horse, Yela, disagreed. In this regard, she would teach me the importance of the phrase, "Take the time it takes so it takes less time."

Yela had come down with a virus. She is only three years old and is one of thirteen horses that my husband and I care for on our farm. She had a fever hovering over 104°, and my husband and I were both alarmed. The vet had told us to give her Banamine for the fever and administer oral antibiotics over a course of five days to help resolve her illness. Easy enough, I thought. After all, my Level 3 partner (a Left-Brain Introvert) takes oral medication like a champ. Yela (my Right-Brain Introvert) would certainly follow in her footsteps.

We prepared the syringe with the oral medication, added some molasses to make it more enticing and even brought horse cookies along so that she could get the taste of the medication out of her mouth quickly. The plan was foolproof, we thought. But what we hadn't planned for was the strong reaction Yela would have to us placing the syringe near her mouth. She simply would have none of it as she violently and continuously jerked her head away.

But here we were in a dire situation.

She had a temperature of 104.7°, and we needed to administer these oral medications quickly.

How could we maintain our Parelli principles and still get the job done?

Ideally, in the months preceding, we would have prepared her well in advance by playing the Friendly Game with her in Zone 1 with syringes and other objects to get her used to oral medications. As you can imagine, with thirteen horses and two full-time jobs, the ideal isn't always the reality. But here we were in a dire situation. She had a temperature of 104.7°, and we needed to administer these oral medications quickly. How could we maintain our Parelli principles and still get the job done? We tried approach and retreat when we entered the

stall. We tried scratching her neck to make her more comfortable. We tried horse cookies to reward her if she even remotely relaxed. But as she continuously jerked her head away from the medication and became more insistent about not taking it, our quiver simply ran out of savvy arrows. Eventually my husband had to hold her firmly by her ear so that we could force the medication into her mouth. It wasn't a good experience for us or, more importantly, for her.



We walked away feeling terrible. We had made it a definite make vs. want for her, we felt like predators and we hadn't approached the situation with nearly enough savvy. To add insult to injury, we knew that in twelve hours we would have to administer another dose of antibiotic. Based on this experience, she would most likely react even more violently.

We had to come up with a better way. But what was the way? Fortunately, that same day we had the opportunity to ask Pat and Linda their opinion. The advice we got was fascinating. It came by way of a question: "What are you doing after you administer the dose of medication?" they asked. After? I thought. What difference does it make after the medication is in and the job's done? Well, apparently, all the difference in the world. Pat and Linda emphasized to us that as a Right-Brain Introvert Yela needs trust. With the cookie incentive, I was treating her like my Left-Brain Introvert partner. But her need is much different. Not only does she need us to approach and retreat before the medication is given to establish trust, but she needs significant time invested after the medication is

given. As we learned, if Yela is still Right-Brain and untrusting and we remove the syringe at that moment, we are rewarding and therefore reinforcing the Right-Brain behavior. The key, Pat and Linda said, was to keep the syringe in her mouth even after the medication was swallowed until she relaxed her mouth. Then, once she relaxed, we should remove it and then repeat that a few times without any medication being delivered—a desensitizing and confidence-building process. An investment in time before the medication and an investment in time after the medication would build more trust in the relationship.

The state we leave our horse in is the one we meet the next day.

My husband and I left that discussion with Pat and Linda, licking and chewing on what we had learned. Parelli has always said to take whatever everyone else does and do the opposite. And this was an example of that. To have the syringe stay in her mouth after the medication was gone was counter-intuitive and psychologically intriguing. Would it really work?

Yela is pleased to report that it did work! She is now accepting oral medications with considerably more trust. Her humans are pleased to report that they have gained a more trustful relationship with their Right-Brain Introvert horse and have learned more than ever the valuable lesson of taking the time it takes—before and after the situation. The state we leave our horse in is the one we meet the next day. How wonderful it is to know how, even with something as unpleasant as oral medication, we can still take care of the relationship. 🐾



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Brian, Katie and Jack



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Parelli Touches Hearts and Minds in Iraq

by Norma Vela

Parelli Natural Horsemanship is truly a universal language that speaks to a love of horses—and it allowed two men from opposite ends of the earth to form an unlikely friendship.

Loren Lanckriet works as a civilian contractor dedicated to the rebuilding effort in Iraq. Based in Baghdad, he is regularly supported by Iraqi nationals and works in coordination with the U.S. troops at an Air Force base. Loren was raised in Peyton, Colorado, and has had horses most of his life, “except during service years when I was in the army in the ’70s. But now I live for my horses and my wife.” (Probably not in that order!) Although right now he admits he’s sacrificing for his wife and horses, working in a war-torn country, far from home, to help support them.

On one particular day Loren was working with a local Iraqi national who noticed Loren’s photographs from the United States. With little skill in English, the Iraqi man introduced

himself as Yusef and started a conversation. A fairly substantial language barrier was overcome as the two men “conversed” by drawing pictures in the dirt, and Loren quickly learned that this young man also had horses. Yusef was fascinated by all things “horse” and Western. He brought in photos of his horses and saddle—he had a makeshift rig that was something between a Decker pack and McClellan saddle, held on with a ratchet strap. Loren brought in more photographs of his own horses and added some books on the Western horse world to the “conversation,” and a friendship began to develop.

Back home, the Lanckriet herd consists of three horses and two mules—a Morgan mare, 20 years old; a Quarter/Percheron cross and another Percheron for driving, plus 2- and 3-year-old mules for pleasure riding and driving. Loren’s wife, Julie, is also a Parelli student; they’ve gone to many clinics and events together. She’s been keeping everyone healthy and in shape so that when Loren returns he can have a good ride and fill the barn with hay. It’s a full-time job for her.

Loren and Yusef shared their ideas over time, connecting as humans as they talked about training horses. Yusef heard a bit about Loren’s Parelli methods and was obviously intrigued by it. A horse’s life in Iraq is quite different. Yusef has an Arabian stallion and mare, and he showed Loren how he had been using a *logging chain* for a chinstrap. Loren says, “They definitely *break* their horses rather than train them, for the most part. It’s a brutal world.” With grass hay in short supply—or, as Loren says, “There’s *nothing* there—nothing”—Iraqi horses survive on a kind of chopped-up sugar beet.

In phone calls home Loren would share the conversations with his wife. Julie shared the story with others, and it was eventually shared with a generous person who donated one of the complete Level One packs and shipped it to Yusef and Loren in Iraq.

They started watching the DVDs together in the guard shack, which helped Yusef to learn a bit more English and made him more determined than ever to speak English. “Of course, the booklets didn’t help, because Yusef can’t read or write in any language,” Loren says. “The DVDs are the secret.” Yusef’s dreams

**Yusef tries his gift
on a mattress horse!**



are big for a man living day-to-day and hand-to-mouth. "He wants to train horses. He's not a typical Iraqi." They watched the DVDs over and over as Yusef's fascination and understanding grew; he knew he was seeing it done right!

The brief stories into the world of Parelli gave them both a positive and progressive break. "Iraq right now is ninety years behind us. The worst slum you can think of would be the *better* living area over there." For Yusef especially, the reality of their world was extremely dangerous. Yusef is Kurdish, and while the area was mainly populated by Kurds, still, Loren says, "The bad guys see you going on and off base too many times. They don't care for that—Iraqis working with the troops." Yet Yusef persisted, coming in regularly from Kurkuk, about 40 to 60 miles away, where he lived with his uncles. A powerful bond formed, and Loren admits that now Yusef would do anything to protect Loren. "If something were to happen, he would possibly even die for me."

Loren is able to return home from time to time and spend a few weeks with Julie and his own horses. He even produced a video showing his horses playing Parelli Games to take back to Iraq, not knowing if Yusef would still be there to see it. He was. Loren isn't certain how much longer he'll continue to work in Iraq. "You don't have to be crazy to work there, but you have to stay sane." Loren does his best. After working his job from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., some days he puts on magic shows to help entertain the troops. "It's *Groundhog Day* over here. The only time it's different is if you make it different.

***Loren asked Julie to put together a dream pack:
a Western saddle, saddle blanket, bridle, bit,
breast collar, hat, blue jeans, a Western shirt—
the whole nine yards!***

"If I had the means," Loren says, "I would bring that young man and his brother back to the U.S." But since that's not possible, Loren offers support and inspiration. Since his first meeting with Loren, he adds, "He's been able to build a house and had a new baby. And he wants his children to read and write." Sounds like never-ending self-improvement, and Yusef got some real Parelli Savvy!

Last year Loren had returned to Iraq, Christmas was coming up and he wanted to do something special for Yusef. As they went through the Western books he got an idea of what Yusef might appreciate. Yusef especially liked the cowboy saddle. Loren asked Julie to put together a dream pack: a Western saddle, saddle blanket, bridle, bit, breast collar, hat, blue jeans, a Western shirt—the whole nine yards! It was quite an adven-



ture for Julie to assemble all the right elements, in the right sizes and colors and with the right amount of cowboy bling! She had a bit of a time getting it all shipped, making sure it would travel safely. Julie says, "I got the post office to get me a triple-walled box so nothing would happen to that saddle!" Her prior and proper preparation paid off, and everything arrived just in time for Christmas.

Of course, the gift blew Yusef's mind. Loren still needed to help Yusef understand how to use it all correctly, but no horses are allowed on the military base. So Loren simply used a bit of savvy and some imagination. They tied an old mattress onto a handy forklift and roped it down to be an "overweight horse," and Loren proceeded to saddle the mattress! He showed Yusef the proper way to cinch up, attach the back strap and everything else he needed to know to develop his saddling savvy. Yusef cheerfully jumped up onto that saddle, acting like a real cowboy. He was the hit of the area—everybody came out to see the Iraqi cowboy!

Loren was amazed and touched at the response. "We were spanning eight thousand miles of cultural gap right there. Everybody loves horses!"

Julie sums it up for the rest of us. "I sure hope that folks—even if they *do* speak the same language—can learn from Loren and Yusef through the horses they love." 🐾

Nothing is Impossible

with Cathy Dudick

by Terra N. K. Pugh

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Those famous words delivered by Franklin D. Roosevelt in his 1933 inaugural speech pulled a nation off its knees, and the acts that followed pulled this country out of the Great Depression.



Fear is something we all feel, and it can paralyze us. When I say "paralyze" I'm not talking about the inability to move. I'm talking about the inability to realize your full potential and live your dream.

Cathy Dudick, surgeon and Parelli student, knows this full well. For her, horses have been a life-long love affair. "My dream," says Cathy, "was to have that relationship that I had in my imagination as a child. I dreamed that my horse would love to see me coming, that we would ride all over the place and that I would be my horse's favorite thing (because my horse would certainly be my favorite thing)." When Cathy purchased

her first horse, a mare, in 2003, her dream and her reality didn't match. "She could care less about me. She liked being turned out to do things that were her idea, but as far as being ridden, it wasn't her idea of a good time. She just didn't like me, and I didn't know why, because I gave her everything. It was a real disappointment."

Cathy concluded that the mare had a problem that she wasn't going to be able to solve, so it was time to buy another horse. She resolved to find a horse that was more like the horse in her dreams, a horse that would give her the feeling she had while watching *The Black Stallion* and *Black Beauty* as a child.

"I went looking for the perfect horse, or at least the most perfect horse in my price range," remembers Cathy, "because I figured the most perfect horse would be one that I couldn't really afford, one that was perfectly trained, had no issues and did whatever I wanted."

That's when Cathy found Prince, and he was just perfect. He was doing hunter-jumper and low-level dressage, and a twelve-year-old girl was schooling him. So she bought him and brought him home. Unfortunately, the horse she thought she had purchased wasn't the horse that showed up. "I'll never forget the day he came home, because I could barely hold on to him as he came off the trailer. The relationship went downhill from there. On our first ride, he almost broke my nose. . . My first reaction was that he was probably just a little bit more horse than I was ready for, but that he would be a horse that I could grow into, like a tractor. When we purchased our home farm, we also purchased a tractor. We didn't buy the smallest tractor or the largest tractor; we bought the middle tractor, and it wasn't quite enough. We had always wished that we had purchased the larger tractor. That was how I looked at Prince. I would grow into him."

During her second ride Prince bolted, and Cathy was unable to bend him to a stop. "The prescription I received from my friends who were knowledgeable about horses was that I needed a bigger bit and tie his head down. There was something about this horse, though. He had such a great spirit. I would have rather just put him in the pasture and watched him for the rest of his life than tie his head down. And I had tied plenty of horse's heads down. At the time I was riding him in a kimberwick bit with a chain. So I had a pretty big bit in his mouth. And I thought, 'What am I going to do, put barbed wire in his mouth?' I couldn't imagine doing anything to this horse." At that point Cathy decided she wouldn't do it; she couldn't do it. There had to be another way.

I remember thinking how fearful I was in the trauma room, not wanting a patient to die despite everything I did. I realized that this fear was actually hindering me and not motivating me to be better.

Consumed with frustration, Cathy went home and was poring over her horse books when she noticed a title on her shelf, *Natural Horse-Man-Ship*. After the first couple pages she noticed that this cowboy could teach her to yield her horse's head to stop (which had failed to happen in her accident earlier that day). Her next step was Parelli.com, her first step into her horsemanship journey and toward living her dream.



Cathy was never consciously afraid of horses, but when she started studying Parelli and understanding the material, she became terrified, because she realized the full extent of what she had lived through. She became so afraid that she even felt fear whenever she thought about going down to her barn. It was through a fear makeover at the Ocala Parelli Center that she made her breakthrough. Looking back, Cathy remarks, "I had done everything, read everything, gone to courses, traveled with instructors . . . when was my fear going to go away? What was it going to take? It then occurred to me that I was looking in the wrong direction. I was looking for outward solutions instead of looking inside. I had to look inward and learn to trust myself, to trust that I wouldn't push myself over the cliff."

That realization was huge, and it helped Cathy with her fear in more than just horsemanship. "I remember thinking how fearful I was in the trauma room, not wanting a patient to die

despite everything I did. I realized that this fear was actually hindering me and not motivating me to be better.”

After the second trip to the Florida Cathy went home, and everything was different in the operating room. “I was elbow-deep in some trauma extravaganza that wasn’t going well for the patient. Behind my surgical mask I remember smiling, because I had overcome my fear. I remember thinking, ‘Okay, this isn’t going well.’ I backed up in my mind; I retreated in my mind and thought, ‘Okay, I’m not being successful with what we are trying to do here. What can we do?’ I smiled in my mask, a smile of quiet confidence, and I had the belief that I could do this. I went forward again, and things worked out very well for the patient. I realized at that moment how much fear had run my life.” Now Cathy is able to teach her residents that there is nothing to fear but fear itself. She is able to help them move past their fears. Furthermore, she sees how Parelli can help her patients as well. “As a trauma surgeon, I can’t overstate that Parelli goes about this in a very safe way.



If everyone just did Level 1, I think I’d see a lot fewer equine injuries in my trauma room, and I see them all the time!

“I am not fearful anymore. I never realized how much fear controlled my life. I’m someone who’s been through the educational system to a very high level, and I was never taught how to learn. I was never taught that being fearful is not being a coward; it means that you’re outside your comfort zone, and that is all that it means. Fear is nothing to be ashamed of. It sounds like such a simple concept, but it’s life-changing. Not only has it helped me, it has helped me help other people understand fear. The concept of approaching and retreating from fear has completely changed me.

I was never taught that being fearful is not being a coward; it means that you’re outside your comfort zone.

“I have entered (for first time in my life) into an endeavor in which I feel nothing is impossible. That’s a great feeling,” says Cathy. “I can go as far as I want to go, and the tools are there for me, and the tools are there for him. It’s a real partnership of all the things that Prince and I have learned. And all of those things have spilled over into my life outside him.” For Cathy, this has nothing to do with horses. Parelli has been a life-altering journey that has used horses as the tool to get her to a better place. “Pat and Linda have impacted hundreds of people in the medical field because of what they have taught me. I don’t ever want to underestimate what they have done for me. At the end of the day I can go out and ride my horse; we’re even getting to a place where I can ride bridleless. I get goose bumps thinking about where we’re going to be.” Cathy is living her dream. She has a horse that comes to her in the pasture, that loves playing with her, and they have mutual understanding. “I now know that I judged Prince correctly in that he has a great spirit and that he is perfect. Furthermore, I can see that my first mare was perfect as well.”

Cathy sums her Parelli journey up well: “I feel I’ve never been involved with anything that has been consistently so excellent and maintained that excellence—and I know excellence. I was a clinical fellow at Harvard Medical School. So I’ve seen excellence at work in Parelli; Pat and Linda are brilliant. A lot of programs tell you that you can get to your dream, but they don’t tell how to get there. Parelli does it all. Parelli has replaced the fear in my life with joy. I think of my daughter and the fact that I can help her learn to not be controlled by fear. Parelli is helping me play the big game.” 🐾

Parelli Essentials

Before... After

Having had so many comments about how different my horse Allure looks these days, I thought it was about time to show the before and after transformation of his physical health.

The 'before' is from five years ago when I first got him. Notice that Allure's mane is coarse, dry and frizzy, and quite bleached out. His coat is an odd orangey-brown-red and he would bleach blond in the summer.

Some of you may also notice the bulge at his throat, this is an enlarged thyroid gland (goiter) and is a contributor to some of his extreme behavior.

The 'after' photo was taken at the 2007 Savvy Conference last September. As you can see his color has changed dramatically and the goiter is virtually gone. His coat is soft and shiny all year long (even winter) and his mane is almost straight.

When I first got Allure we didn't have Essentials. He was on vitamins, minerals and our feeding program. But when I started him on Essentials about 18 months later I saw changes within a week and every year he just looks and feels better and better. This summer he only had a few bleached hairs on his shoulders and tail instead of over his whole body, and his hormonal stability has also changed. This amazing formula of amino acids and herbs is alchemy at its finest. (By the way, Essentials was formulated by the same man who inspired my research on Horsenality.)

Essentials makes you realize that it's not about the nutrition... unless you can utilize those nutrients! Make sure your horse is able to digest the nutrients you're giving him. Learn about the Parelli feeding program by using the Savvy Club website search.

Essentials - way more than a supplement.

BEFORE:
Allure in 2003



AFTER:
Allure in 2007



There are a lot of equine digestive supplements out there, but knowing the Parellis feed this product to their horses is a testament in itself. The biggest, most visible effect that I have noticed is that my horses have a bright and healthy coat year round. I have received many comments from others on how healthy my horses look. Another effect is that they have never had any digestive issues. They were healthy prior to adding this supplement, but since they have been on Parelli Essentials their health has remained good. One of my horses is 24 years old, but you wouldn't know it by the way he acts and plays.

—Sandi Carter,
San Antonio, TX

FreeStyle Patterns

Not your average horse exercise program.

A Unique Key to Teaching Horses and Humans

Max Easey, Derby, U.K.

We think the Patterns are a stroke of genius. Patterns work because they are something that humans and horses have in common, so they help both species to learn together.

Now ready for a trail ride!

Carole Hofmann, Berryville, VA, U.S.

After twenty or more years not riding, I felt hesitation that was causing challenges with my Left-Brain Extrovert horse's willingness to be obedient. Having a very clear Pattern of Follow the Rail while consistently checking how much of a partner Ginger was being at many intervals by changing direction, stopping, backing up, etc. gave me a clear focus and a very clear plan. This in turn allowed Ginger to have more respect and confidence in me as a leader, which gave me more



confidence riding. We can now ride around our very large field together on a true loose rein with her being much more willing to venture farther away from the pasture and barn area. After two

and a half years I think we are ready for our first "real" trail ride! Thank you for leading the way, making your better best, so we can follow the example!

I am now more progressive

Yannick Demarest, Etaples, France

Thanks to the FreeStyle Patterns, my Right-Brain Extrovert mare who used to be frantic is now more emotionally balanced, relaxed and light because she knows the job she has



to do. As for me, I am now more progressive and consistent in my demands, and I dare to ride her with casual reins or with the Carrot Stick. I'm so proud of our progress.

I cantered and did simple changes!

Jeanne R. Berry and Cheerios, Bowling Green, OH, U.S.

Cheerios and I were stuck in Level 2. My Left-Brain Introvert was getting bored. Trotting him was like riding a jackhammer; forget cantering—control and communication vanished once his adrenaline kicked in. What the Patterns have done for our communication, his attitude and my confidence is amazing. My first partner and I had done the Question Box pattern at a Parelli clinic. What would Cheerios think of it? His



trot smoothed out. He asked questions instead of anticipating or doing his own thing. The Cloverleaf and Million Transitions helped both of

us get and stay focused. Finally I felt "in control" enough to try cantering. One day we successfully rode the 180s with a simple lead change at the canter. I was so confident after that I dropped the reins around the saddle horn, threw my arms up in the air and took off—at a canter. Free. No bucks. At last!

It taught us both to slow down

Patty Woodyard, Ft. Myers, FL, U.S.

Just a quick note to tell you that I *love* the new Patterns. I have a coming 4-year-old Left-Brain Introvert. I passed Level 2 with him just before Christmas. He's the third horse I have tried to use as a levels horse. Well, I have just started under saddle again in the last two weeks after watching the DVD again and again. I really love to teach him *new* things. Today I rode with the Carrot Stick for the first time. We did a lot of the Weave Pattern, and he did great! It really taught him to slow down.

It also taught me to slow down. The turns and even circles are great for a young horse. I can't wait to play with them with my other herd partner. Keep up the good work!



My confidence has soared

Regina Preciado, Grass Valley, CA, U.S.

Rockstar never liked passenger sessions. As he withdrew, I lost confidence. I compensated by asking even less of him, which made things worse. But during a game of extreme Touch It involving a tree, a hula hoop and a chihuahua, more engaged than we had been in weeks, I realized Rock felt my passengering as a lack of leadership. Boring! Unsafe! Pointless! Everything changed with Follow the Rail. The instant I aimed my belly button at a barrel with a strong intention of getting there, Rock's ears swept forward, and he stepped out like drum major. He flowed through each corner, and I don't think I lifted him back to the rail more than five times in twenty minutes. Our relationship is stronger than it's ever been; my confidence has soared. He's even started offering some Liberty. Now I have to watch that DVD so I can keep up!



Happier, calmer, softer

Shelley, Perthshire, Scotland

I bought my new levels horse in November 2007. He was ten years old and pretty green apart from some collected riding. He was a dominant Left-Brain Introvert with Left-Brain Extrovert tendencies, and it took me a while to get some leadership with him. Thanks to the Seven Games I was successful, and we now have a good relationship and bond. What I realized quickly was that Solly got completely lost if I had a loose rein, and this made him unpredictable. He goes Right-Brain Introvert and sometimes Right-Brain Extrovert when unconfident about new things, places and learning, so I knew I had to manage the edges of his comfort zones. Luckily, at the U.K.



Conference of 2008, where I was a volunteer, the Patterns were launched, and Solly and I haven't looked back. All the Patterns have really helped us focus and have put a purpose into our play sessions, and

our FreeStyle is now looking much better. Due to the style of the Patterns, especially the Question Box, Solly is much more confident, as he has a purpose, and I have a much better focus for us. Coming back to the X in the center of the Pattern helps him think about what we could be doing next, whether it's a stop, change direction, change gait or back up. It's helped me have a good plan and him to be able to start reading my mind and not worry that he is lost because I don't hold his reins all the time. Solly is becoming a much happier, calmer and softer horse in all gaits, and it's fun to go out and play with the FreeStyle, now that X is his comfort zone. I am learning to take that X everywhere I go!

Less introverted and more expressive

Lyda Pola, Gorham, ME, U.S.

It is still icy and cold here in Maine. I have no indoor arena, so I play with my horses and any little slab of mud I can find on a warm day. I pull out some buckets from the barn, a step stool—whatever I can find for objects of interest. I have only begun the FreeStyle Patterns, maybe three or four times so far. My very introverted American Warmblood of five years has responded better to these On Line maneuvers than to just playing the Seven Games. I keep her interest as she looks to me for what I am about to ask. I feel less restricted since I



am moving around, too, as I walk with her doing the Circling Game. I can begin to see that she is becoming less introverted and more expressive, which I have been not-so-patiently waiting for over the past four years. I have great hopes for both of us now, and I can't wait till the snow melts.

Our humans are creative again!

Edwige Lee, Lexington, SC, U.S.

"Playtime with our humans has gotten to be so much more fun since they've been teaching us the Parelli Patterns! Our humans are creative again, and we never know what we'll be doing during a play session!" If my horses could talk, I'm almost sure this is what they would say about the Patterns. The Patterns have really taken their development one step further, and they seem much more confident and engaged. Even our older "Don't mess with me" mare has transformed before our eyes into a "Can I do that again, please?" performer. Playtime with them has never been boring since we all started the Parelli Patterns!

A Time to Lead, A Time to Follow

by Chris Corbidge, Licensed Parelli Professional

The Professional Student

As I headed off for the six-week module at the Parelli Centre near Sydney I had a thousand kilometers of thinking time on my hands, and one of the thoughts that came to me was, “What would be the *worst* thing I could do or think during the next six weeks?” Pat often talks about watching what the rest of the world is doing, noticing what isn’t working and doing the opposite to obtain a different result. How simple! It was up to me to choose an attitude, and therefore my outcome.

I figured out that Pat and Linda don’t ever do *anything* without a positive outcome in mind, so this must be a golden opportunity for them to insist *all* Parelli Professionals put themselves into the shoes of a learner again by spending six weeks as “just another student,” with no instructor status, under the leadership of instructors who are younger and newer to the program than some of us. The worst thing I could do might be to think I already know something they might be there to teach, and just mark time instead of being open to the lessons. So I made the conscious choice to be a professional student and to pay attention to my inner monologue, both positive and negative. It got me to thinking about advice Pat gave us years ago when talking about assisting at courses being led by another professional. He told us he expected us to be “the *best* student there.” I figured out that he wasn’t talking about having the fanciest horse or doing the fanciest stuff on our horses, but that he expected we would prove to be worthy of the lessons—open minded, punctual, respectful, engaged, humble, hard-working, friendly, mentally, emotionally and physically fit. I made it my goal to get my better best.

It was an interesting and positive exercise for me to step aside as an instructor and follow the leadership of the faculty team—Tara Harris, Trevor Carter and Berin MacFarlane—and to take a double perspective—one as a student, feeling and experiencing everything the other students were, without the responsibility of “instructor,” and one as a professional, observing, remembering and compar-

ing the way these three professionals used the Seven Keys to Success to guide us all through the six weeks of the courses. To say I was impressed would be an understatement.

How to tell you about the six-week module . . . well, you had to be there, I think. There were challenges, adrenaline rushes, humbling moments, funny moments (plenty of those), tears and joy. And through it all there were the horses—simple, uncomplicated creatures, yet able to bring out the most unexpected (and sometimes unwanted) changes in their humans.

At the finale to our time together, my response to the question “How will you be different?” could have filled a few pages, but there were some standouts. I realized how easy it is, when I am working full-time as an instructor, to put my personal horsemanship aside and forget to pick it up again. I realized that my horses need me to spend more consistent time with them. When I do, there is a benefit to everyone I influence. I realized that if I wish to continue to help others to make progress, I need to take care of my own personal time and space, and that Pat and Linda are wise to insist that we take time out to be professional students so that we become re-inspired and re-energized and our education becomes reinforced and refined. I came home with a determination to be more disciplined in my time for self-improvement, which includes personal horsemanship—the thing that inspired me to find Parelli in the first place.



courtesy photo

Equitana

On November 18 my family and I had the privilege and opportunity to take our horses to the Melbourne Showgrounds and play with them in front of Pat and Linda. It was two days before the Equitana event opened, and we thought we might use them for a “Four Horsenality™” demo, and for Linda to do a rider makeover with my husband Justin and his horse Joe Cool. As it turned out, the venue did not lend itself to the planned demos, and Pat, in true “adjust to fit the situation” fashion, wowed us all by giving three demos over three days with a young Warmblood gelding.

When we weren’t spending time in the Parelli booth, Justin, Erinn, our 15-year-old daughter, and I were having a wonderful time doing impromptu demonstrations when taking our horses out from the stables for exercise, even at night, on the outdoor grassed arena where we played—naturally! After a while we realized the stands were full of people just sitting watching us, recognizing the special relationship between us and our horses that they all would love to have, too. We met many, many horse lovers from many different worlds, and we were often told, “We don’t know why, but we keep coming down your end of the stables and hanging out.” We were proud to represent Parelli. We made it our mission to make as many people smile as possible. We made friends with all the security staff, the Equitana helpers, the stable hands, other clinicians, professionals, competitors and especially their hired hands. We took particular pride in seeing that our stable area was clean, organized and ready at any time for anything—including several unexpected visits from Pat and Linda.

After watching the third demo Pat gave, in which he talked passionately about his beliefs, I got a call from the stable manager telling me that my horse Cooper was going crazy in the stalls. When I arrived there I discovered him charging the walls, with blood on his flanks from biting himself. All his old nightmares from his previous life in Normalsville were coming back to him, brought on by predatory behavior in a stall nearby, and his emotions were so high that it took me 40 minutes of approach and retreat to get his mind to relax and for him to come to me. I took him out to the warm-up arena and cried on his shoulder, asking his forgiveness for all the rotten things that other humans have made him feel. I made Cooper a promise that whatever he has experienced from the hands of other humans he will never feel from me. I made Pat a silent promise, too—that although I’m still not good enough, I promise I’ll get better. Our wonderful new friend Mike (the stable manager) moved the horse and human that were causing Cooper such distress to another stable, and Cooper was able to relax again.

On the last night there, when we thanked the stable manager for his assistance, he told us, “Don’t worry about cleaning out your stalls. Nobody else has. Why should you?” We replied, “Mike, we’ll be doing them anyway. At Parelli we like to set a good example, not follow a bad one.” He didn’t argue about that.

We came home tired, happy and with another reminder of how excellent this Parelli organization is—how different, how world-class, how revolutionary in so many ways. How it draws people because of the positive feeling they get when they are around Parelli people. Our booth at Equitana was filled with relaxed, happy people watching *Live Your Dream*, chatting to each other and the professional team, asking about our program and meeting Pat and Linda. We were all filled with pride for what we represent. We are a living example of putting the relationship with the horse first. We only had to look around outside to see the opposite.

At dinner in Lygon Street on Saturday night with Neil, Sue and the rest of the team, we realized we had representatives from seven different countries. Our Lebanese waiter wanted to follow us back to Equitana, drawn, no doubt, by the energy of the group—or maybe just because we enjoyed his jokes so much. We felt pride, love, connection and strength. We headed off to our homes, separated by distance, but feeling closer than ever. 🐾



courtesy photos

FreeStyle inside the Finesse

The Paradox of Riding in Connection with the Reins

By Karen Rohlf

"You have freedom when you are easy in your harness" (Robert Frost). What an interesting way to define freedom. How many of us would have used the word "harness" in defining freedom?

True happiness is not dependent on the absence of challenges or difficulty. It is dependent on your attitude or way of thinking about those challenges. Freedom is not dependent on a lack of restraint or limitation. It is dependent on the ability to accommodate and accept it and to be able to move within it. This is true emotionally, but also physically.

So what does this have to do with Finesse? Any of us who have attempted to ride our horse in connection with the reins, *in Finesse*, know how quickly it can go wrong so that the horse and human feel anything but free. Riders shorten their reins, go in an arena and say "Okay, today we *do Finesse!*" and the horse feels as if his world suddenly closes in on him. Horses get anxious and need to escape, start spooking at things as a means of diversion or in response to heightened pressure, or just lean on the wall of aids that are now nice and close and lean-on-able!

So then we look for help. We see others doing it well, and what do we see? A rider who doesn't move, a horse with a consistent

carriage of the neck, short, steady reins and precise figures. You may look to the experts in dressage for answers, so you get out your tapes of the Olympics and watch horses doing Grand Prix under the most stressful conditions. We see the necks high and the reins short and the heads near vertical, and they are super-charged with energy. The trouble is that if you try to recreate this, you and your horse can easily feel anxious or stiff and restricted. Where did all the freedom and harmony go?

Riding in connection with the reins is a delicate art. I believe that it is one of the most difficult things in riding, even for top riders. You may ask why we would even want to take up this challenging task. What you gain by having excellent Finesse is the possibility of having many doors open for you, including the most important one: the one into your horse's gymnastic potential, unleashing his energy and power. Taking a horse through gymnastic exercises in a good connection with a loose back, uphill posture and self-carriage can be one of the healthiest ways to ride. Even if you never want to do dressage

as a specialty, the *basics* of dressage are for all horses (the same way a Parelli foundation is for all horses). Harmony and trust in the reins and precise riding will serve every horse and rider in every discipline. You aren't really free unless you are free in Finesse, when you are "easy in your harness."

If I had to say just one sentence that would help you achieve excellent Finesse and avoid the common pitfalls, it would be this:

Create an equine partner who is let loose and inspired, then ride with great focus and refinement while your hands wait for him to trust them.

Partnership is the beginning and the end. Holes in your foundation will be heightened in Finesse. He must be *let loose*, not escaping or simply allowing you to push him around. When a horse is let loose he is open to your



suggestion mentally, emotionally and physically. The posture of let-loose is characterized by a soft, relaxed, stretchy topline (instead of a posture of defensiveness or brace with a raised head and tight back). It is up to the rider to not throw the horse off balance. Many students still exaggerate their body language long after the horse has learned to understand it. **At certain points we need to stop thinking about developing our horses and simply get better at riding what our horse already offers.** This can create the next level of harmony, which gains your horse's trust and confidence in you, leading him to open himself to you even further.

Don't think that Finesse is about a "head set" for the horse. Finesse is a state of mind. It is being a precise dance partner for the waltz. It is possible to have a Finesse focus even when bridleless (this takes extreme focus for horse and rider), or to do FreeStyle even with short reins (this takes extreme self-control of the rider's hands and trust of the reins for the horse). Give yourself time to lick and chew on that one! FreeStyle refers to the strategy of "loosening the spring," as Pat says, focusing on building the responsibilities of horse and human.

At my clinics I observe students making a particular hand gesture when talking about collecting their horse or doing Finesse. It looks like this: Hold both arms out in front of you, palms down, fingers open. Now close your fingers into a fist and twist so your thumb is on top. At the same time bend your elbows and bring them to your sides. Is it any wonder that the horse would lean on or hide from the bit if you asked in this way? That gesture is about taking backwards, when really **we need the horse to trust our hands so we achieve connection.** I also see students doing amazing things bridleless, FreeStyle, but then using way too much hand and rein to do Finesse, or getting tight in their bodies when they think about precision, instead of remembering how relaxed they are in FreeStyle—how much trust there was.

So "FreeStyle into the Finesse" means to take the Freestyle forward. Even though you have a line on the horse, you can play as if you are at Liberty. Even though you have short reins and are riding in precision, it doesn't mean you have to control or get tight.

Is there any good news? *Yes!* Many horses love Finesse; it gives them great security and clarity. Finesse can be the place where a horse becomes the calmest and most confident. Some insecure horses find great comfort in the predictability of Finesse. We know rhythm causes relaxation, and often the rhythm of consistent gaits and precise, familiar figures can be



that source of relaxation. And remember that there are *Four Savvys*, and each has its own benefit. Take a look at how the other three Savvys can be used to help your Finesse.

Think of precision not as a limit for the horse but as an opportunity to find freedom. He can feel freer if he really stays on the line of travel instead of constantly coming off it and needing to be corrected. There is freedom inside the body that can be accessed only via the athletic balance resulting from various transition sequences or figures.

When we have this kind of freedom of movement, we know it was worth the struggle of learning it. In my book I tell a story of how I learned ballroom dancing. Initially my teacher put on some music and had us just dance (FreeStyle) however we wanted, independently! Then he had my partner and me learn our parts side by side. When we had this, we faced each other, not touching, until we had our balance again. Then he had us connect our bodies, still not using our arms. We each had to relearn how to maintain our own balance as we connected. Separate from this, we worked on our posture together, standing still and practicing connecting through our arms. The last thing we did was to try to actually dance together while in connection with our arms. It was the hardest part, and it elicited arguments almost immediately: "You're leaning on me! No, *you're pushing on me!*" I knew then what it must be like to be a dressage horse! But when it worked, it was amazing. We became one creature, one body. This teacher had taught us the FreeStyle inside the Finesse. He made sure we could be responsible for ourselves independently and then connected us in our bodies, and later with our arms. He knew the challenges inherent in allowing humans to hold something in their hands while being told to be precise.

For me, it is worth the challenge. But be gentle with yourselves and your horses while learning it. 🐾

The Parelli Center



What Impact the Six-Week Module at the Australia Parelli Center had on Me by Silke Hardeland

Gee, I had a lot of expectations for that course. I am a Level 3 student and had been advancing with my partner Chou-Chou toward the assessment, but I got stuck between spending undemanding time and progressiveness. There were a few other issues I wanted to address, and I could not wait to finally get answers.

I had read that I would be a different person after that course, but how much I did change for the better was unbelievable. And during these six weeks I did not see it coming. The amount of time was just right—long enough to not be over so quickly, and short enough that time flew by. We covered all the subjects, and I got to ask heaps of questions—ones

that had been burning on my tongue for a long time.

I learned so much from the instructors, the other students and my horse. Finally I could read my equine partner more efficiently. She is a different horse now. I saw that at the Center but did not really make the connection that it had to do with me.

Although I had read most of the material we covered and thought I had understood it, it had not settled into my unconscious. Being in Parelli-land with like-minded people, inhaling Parelli vocabulary and phrases all day, watching the perfect practice demos and then practicing on your own with supervision, dealing with your horse in a natural, positive progressive manner settled in. Wow!

Florida



On the last day everyone had to say what he or she had learned and what he or she would do differently when back at home. Everything I said that I wanted to be and do when I got home, *I already was*. And I didn't realize that on the last day. I was petrified to be turned loose back in the real world. But I was ready.

I am a different person now. Calmer and friendlier not only with my horse, but also with my family and friends. Assertive, but not aggressive. There hasn't been a screaming argument with my daughter and her dad since I got back.

I take more time for the things that are important to me. And I put off other things that are not so important.

My horse cannot wait to play with me and does not pin her ears back that often anymore. And if she does, I now know how to change this.

I feel so grateful that I was in the position to attend this course. The course exceeded all my expectations and has changed my life. And I cannot wait to do it again. 🐾

To see a list of all course dates turn the page.

Book Your Transformation!

www.parelli.com or 800-642-3335

2009 COLORADO



1-Week Courses:

Language of Horses (On Line Levels 1&2)	May 24-29, Jun 14-19, Jun 28-Jul 3, Jul 26-31, Sept 20-25
Natural Attraction to Liberty (Liberty Levels 1&2)	May 17-22, Jul 5-10, Aug 2-7, Aug 23-28
Confidence in Riding (Freestyle Levels 1&2)	May 31-Jun 5, Jul 12-17, Aug 2-7, Aug 9-14, Aug 30-Sept 4, Sept 6-11
Moving in Harmony (Finesse Levels 2&3)	Jun 7-12, Jul 12-17, Aug 9-14, Aug 16-21, Sept 13-18
Advancing Communication (On Line Levels 3&4)	May 17-22, May 31-Jun 5, Aug 23-28, Sept 20-25
The Truth (Liberty Levels 3&4)	Jun 7-12, Jun 21-26, Aug 30-Sept 4
Riding with Purpose (Freestyle Levels 3&4)	May 24-29, Jun 14-19, Jun 28-Jul 3, Jul 26-31, Aug 16-21, Sept 6-11
Natural Performance (Finesse Levels 3&4)	Jun 21-26, Jul 5-10, Sept 13-18

4-Week Packages:

"Getting To Know My Horse" (Four Savvys in Levels 1 & 2)	May 17-Jun 12, Jul 26-Aug 21
"I'm On My Way" (On Line and Liberty Levels 3 & 4 + Freestyle and Finesse Levels 1 & 2)	Aug 23-Sept 18
"Masterclass" (Four Savvys in Levels 3 & 4)	May 31-Jun 26, Aug 23-Sept 18

8-Week Package:

"Becoming A Horseman" (Four Savvys in Levels 1, 2, 3 & 4)	Jul 26-Sept 18
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2009 FLORIDA



1-Week Courses:

Language of Horses (On Line Levels 1&2)	Jan 11-16, Feb 15-20, Mar 8-13, Mar 29-Apr 3, Oct 18-23, Nov 1-6
Natural Attraction to Liberty (Liberty Levels 1&2)	Jan 18-23, Feb 8-13, Feb 22-27, Apr 5-10, Oct 25-30
Confidence in Riding (Freestyle Levels 1&2)	Jan 25-30, Mar 1-6, Mar 15-20, Apr 12-17, Nov 1-6, Nov 22-27, Nov 29-Dec 4
Moving in Harmony (Finesse Levels 2&3)	Feb 1-6, Mar 8-13, Mar 22-27, Nov 8-13, Dec 6-11
Advancing Communication (On Line Levels 3&4)	Jan 25-30, Feb 8-13, Mar 15-20, Nov 8-13, Nov 15-20
The Truth (Liberty Levels 3&4)	Feb 1-6, Feb 15-20, Mar 22-27, Nov 15-20, Nov 22-27
Riding with Purpose (Freestyle Levels 3&4)	Jan 11-16, Feb 22-27, Mar 29-Apr 3, Apr 12-17, Oct 25-30, Nov 29-Dec 4
Natural Performance (Finesse Levels 3&4)	Jan 18-23, Mar 1-6, Apr 5-10, Oct 18-23, Dec 6-11

4-Week Packages:

"Getting To Know My Horse" (Four Savvys in Levels 1 & 2)	Jan 11-Feb 6, Feb 15-Mar 13, Oct 18-Nov 13
"I'm On My Way" (On Line and Liberty Levels 3 & 4 + Freestyle and Finesse Levels 1 & 2)	Nov 15-Dec 11
"Masterclass" (Four Savvys in Levels 3 & 4)	Feb 8-Mar 6, Mar 15-Apr 10 Nov 15-Dec 11

8-Week Package:

"Becoming A Horseman" (Four Savvys in Levels 1, 2, 3 & 4)	Jan 11-Mar 6, Feb 15-Apr 10 Oct 18-Dec 11
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2009 AUSTRALIA



1-Week Courses:

Language of Horses (On Line Levels 1&2)	Mar 22-27
Natural Attraction to Liberty (Liberty Levels 1&2)	Oct 4-9
Confidence in Riding (Freestyle Levels 1&2)	Mar 29-Apr 3
Moving in Harmony (Finesse Levels 2&3)	Oct 11-16
Advancing Communication (On Line Levels 3&4)	Apr 5-10, Oct 18-23
The Truth (Liberty Levels 3&4)	Oct 25-30
Riding with Purpose (Freestyle Levels 3&4)	Apr 12-17, Nov 1-6
Natural Performance (Finesse Levels 3&4)	Nov 8-13

4-Week Package:

"Masterclass" (Four Savvys in Levels 3 & 4)	Oct 18-Nov 13
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2009 UNITED KINGDOM



1-Week Courses:

Language of Horses (On Line Levels 1&2)	May 18-22, Jun 1-5, Jul 20-24
Natural Attraction to Liberty (Liberty Levels 1&2)	Jun 8-12
Confidence in Riding (Freestyle Levels 1&2)	May 25-29, Jun 15-19, Jul 27-31
Moving in Harmony (Finesse Levels 2&3)	Jun 22-26
Advancing Communication (On Line Levels 3&4)	Aug 3-7, Aug 31-Sep 4
The Truth (Liberty Levels 3&4)	Aug 10-14
Riding with Purpose (Freestyle Levels 3&4)	Aug 17-21, Sep 7-11
Natural Performance (Finesse Levels 3&4)	Aug 24-28

4-Week Package :

"Getting To Know My Horse" (Four Savvys in Levels 1 & 2)	Jun 1-26
"Masterclass" (Four Savvys in Levels 3 & 4)	Aug 3-28

Humane Society of the United States Picks Parelli for Positive Partner

by Norma Vela

Every year thousands of horses across the country are abandoned, sent to auction to be purchased by killers or ignored completely until authorities must seize them as victims of abuse.

The story often begins with well-meaning people who try to live the dream of owning a horse but don't have the education, expertise or finances to support that dream. Passed from owner to owner, the horse gathers more negative experiences. The horse becomes "difficult" or "dangerous" or "too expensive" and is sold in frustration. Other horses who wind up as rescues were the result of a backyard "breeding program" in which the breeder had no specific plan other than to possibly sell the resulting foal and had little or no experience starting a young horse. Some horses were simply a disappointment to their owners and are too much emotional effort to bear any longer. Thousands of horses and thousands of stories have created a vicious cycle of suffering. Parelli Natural Horsemanship and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) have joined forces to turn this vicious cycle into a virtuous cycle.

Motivated by the Parelli message of Love, Language and Leadership, HSUS contacted Pat and Linda. Finding the ideal outlet for their message took over two years of planning, but the result is the Rescue Horse program in the 2009 Celebrations. Pat and Linda, the HSUS and a select group of rescue organizations have partnered to find good equine examples

for Pat to transform during the three-day Celebration from a horse with nothing but a past into a horse with everything in his future.

The Humane Society of the United States has been involved in promoting adoptions of rescued horses for many years. In 2007 HSUS co-founded the Homes for Horses Coalition to unify the collective energies and resources of horse rescues and animal welfare groups under one umbrella. With strength in numbers, their goal is to find funding to help support rescue organizations, build their capacity, determine best practices standards for handling rescued horses and find a way to duplicate and teach those best practices.

The hope is to change the thinking that these rescued animals are somehow second-class equines.

"We struggled for a long time with not wanting to say 'No, no, no' all the time about how to handle rescued horses. That's a lot of what we've had to do when we're talking about animal protection," say Holly Hazard, Chief Innovations Officer for the HSUS. Holly, who spent 18 years working with the Doris Day Animal League, was introduced to Parelli Natural Horsemanship through her daughter and has firsthand experience with the results. "Having a relationship with a horse becomes much more powerful when it's a horse you've rescued."

Many people don't understand that trading a horse often leads to worse behavior issues for the new owner. "Trading is one of the worst things to do to a horse. We want people to realize that they have an obligation to resolve issues of respect rather than leaving it to someone else or the auctioneer," says Keith Dane, HSUS Director of Equine Protection. "This is a problem we all need to work together to solve. Pat and Linda gave us the opportunity to spread that word."

Parelli was the perfect partner for HSUS, according to Keith. "We know this program is successful; we like the Parelli

Mission:

1. Find qualified owners for every horse in need.
2. Reduce breeding so that horses are bred only when there is a viable plan for their life and future.
3. Support "Training, not trading"—encourage people to take the time it takes to learn the skills necessary to train every horse rather than sending him down the road to become someone else's problem. We want people to look at their horses as companions for life.

message. We'd been to the tour stops in previous years, and we just liked the whole way the events were being presented to the public. We knew that the Celebration would follow that model of respect for horses, treating them as individuals rather than one-size cookie-cutter cutouts. Pat and Linda were showing people right there that virtually any horse is capable of change with a knowledgeable person."

"Working with Parelli, we can give them a path, a way not only to cope but to be inspired," says Holly. "When we talk to the people who spend their lives taking in the victims of cruelty cases—these people see the downside and worst of horse neglect—and when they learn there is an event even *called* a Celebration, and then that we're not only celebrating, but celebrating *their* horses, they are so grateful."

Keith Dane adds, "Many horse rescues simply don't have the time or expertise to deal with traumatized and abused horses. Parelli training can give them that knowledge."

The hope is to change the thinking that these rescued animals are somehow second-class equines. The horses show us over and over again that they can reach the highest levels of competition. For example, the U.S. Equestrian Federation's 2008 Horse of the Year is a rescue. Jamaica, the 17-year-old combined driving horse, was headed for slaughter when he was rescued to be retrained as a tourist carriage horse. Jamaica wasn't well suited for that job either, but thanks to the patient persistence of his rescuer, the perfect purpose was revealed

with his new owner, Chester Webber, when Jamaica was retrained as a four-in-hand driving horse.

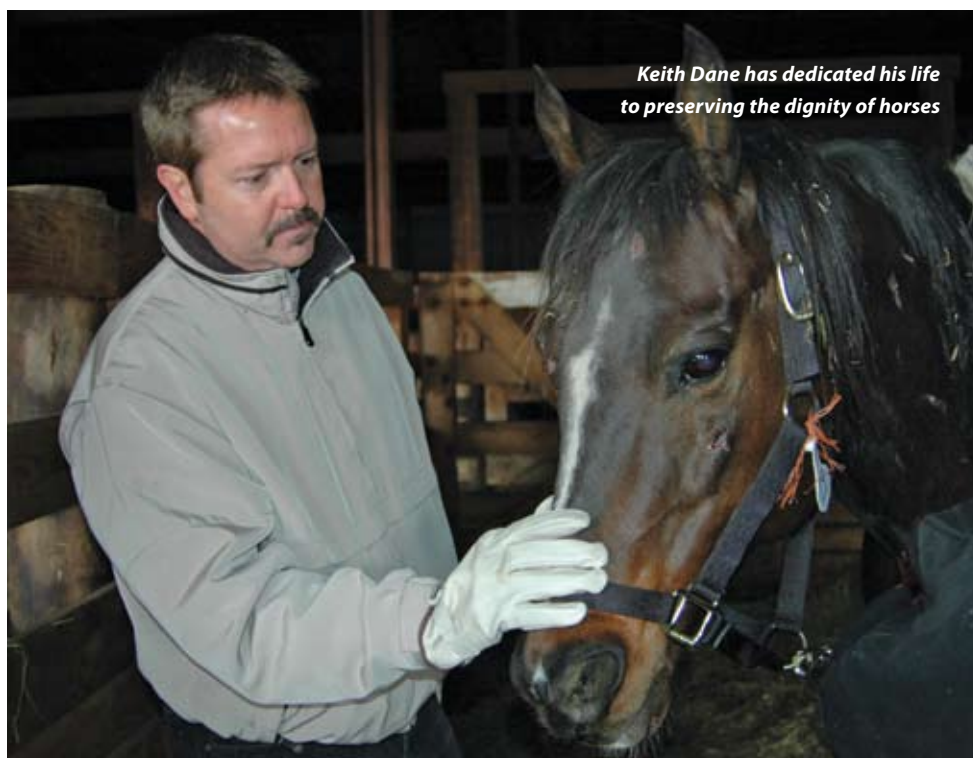
HSUS has also been working with the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, an organization that is actively focused on accrediting sanctuaries around the country. Other organizations have focused on exotics and farm animals; the GFAS is intended to incorporate all into a global program, but also to address horses. The HSUS Equine Protection Department and its partners in the Homes for Horses Coalition developed rescue standards, and GFAS has developed those into an accreditation program. The accreditation would require that the rescue organization meet a certain standard of excellence and care.

Pat and Linda have generously helped to create a lending library of their educational DVDs, which are available to any interested rescue organization at no charge.

One goal of the Homes for Horses Coalition is to professionalize and bring structure to the equine rescue community. Of course, there are many professional, responsible rescuers; unfortunately, there are also some folks with good hearts who get in over their heads. For the rescues that choose to participate, having a standard for care and best practices sets them

apart. People can know that the animals have received appropriate and humane care, and requests for donor funding will have a seal of approval. Certainly the goal would be to have every rescue accredited at the same level. Homes for Horses and Parelli can be great resources for the knowledge they need.

Keith wants people to know that "Pat and Linda have generously helped to create a lending library of their educational DVDs, which are available to any interested rescue organization at no charge. We're at the very beginnings of trying to enable the rescues—to assist and to raise standards." Currently they have a list of over 400 rescues, many of which are very interested in their program.



Keith Dane has dedicated his life to preserving the dignity of horses

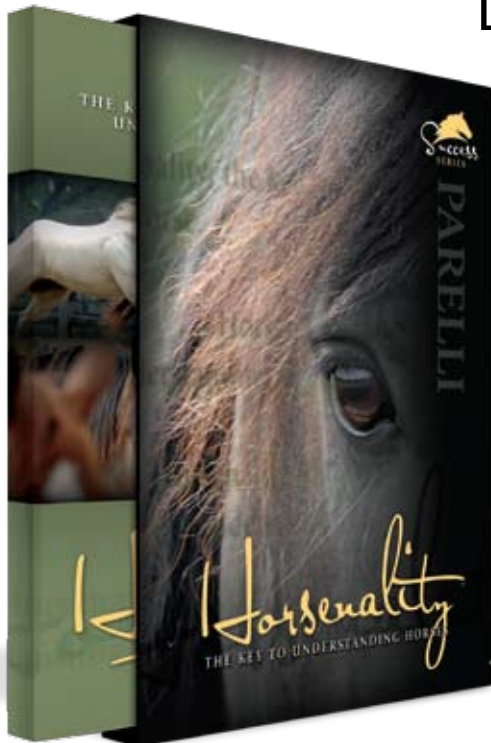


If you're looking for a new horse or an addition to your herd, there is a special horse out there for you. Even if you don't end up finding that horse at a rescue, we encourage simply going as a first step. You never know; your new partner could be waiting for you! Another benefit of starting your search at a rescue is that you'll be working with people in the process who don't have a stake in your taking any horse. They want the right horse going to the right home so the horse can have a home for life.

Together Parelli and HSUS have a mission and vision—to play on Pat's P's—to positively prove to people that with a proper path, prior preparation, pints of perspiration and polite Parelli principles, these precious prey animals previously perceived as problems still have the potential to form partnerships with predators and can even make a perfect performance project for a progressive person with a passion. 🐾

Horsenality™ DVD

Learn To Read Horses!



Horses are not just horses... they are individuals.

Learn about Extroverts and Introverts, about Right-Brain (unconfident) and Left-Brain (dominant) characteristics that make up each individual Horsenality. This is how Pat Parelli reads horses so accurately and knows exactly how to adjust his energy and his approach for success.



Celebrate your Parelli Levels Achievements!



For me, the Parelli Natural Horsemanship program has been more than a program to train horses. Like many others, I started the program when I became disheartened and downright frightened of the horse I had at the time. I was doing everything "normal," not natural. This included riding with my heels forced down, using side reins, and constantly longeing my horse. The Parelli program put all my assumptions and behaviors out there to be examined—not just those about horses, but the ones involved in my entire life. The last couple years of my life was lived with some difficulties, including divorce and illness. At the height of my illness late last year I was playing with my pony in a round pen when I suddenly felt ill and fainted. When I came to I had a pair of nostrils blowing in my hair, and I was disoriented. I wasn't sure what to do next, as I was unable to get up. However, I realized that I could lift up my hand and wiggle my finger to get my pony to back up. Parelli works standing up or lying down. I took my Level 1 assessment with Julie Cross, and when I got my certificate in the mail I felt a little disarmed by my emotional response. I thought to myself, "Why am I getting so worked up about this?" I have diplomas and degrees gathering dust under my worktable, but this certificate meant something deeper. I realized that this certificate was different because I didn't earn this one alone; I had earned it with a partner, my pony Arlo. I decided I wanted to commemorate our accomplishment and contacted Ginny Sue. I now have a beautiful framed presentation that hangs on the left side of my bed, so when I go to sleep at night and wake in the morning I can just look up and see the reminder of one of the most positive aspects of my life. —Cory Streett

**For your personalized details and to place an order, Contact GinnySue at:
Parelli Awards by GinnySue • 269-781-2564 • awards@parelli.com**

International orders welcome. Gift Certificates available. Visit us on the web at www.parelli.com.

Healthy Stride

with Jim Crew

by Norma Vela

"They don't call it horse-shoeing for nothing—nobody calls it hoof-shoeing. I work with the whole horse."

—Jim Crew

I first met Jim Crew at the Franklin, Tennessee Celebration in February to ask if I could interview him for an article. An exuberantly warm man from Alabama—he'll remind you of that regularly in case you missed the accent—Jim immediately invited me to his upcoming clinic at the Atwood Ranch. I'm learning to barefoot trim my own horses and was delighted for the opportunity to see Jim's concepts in action, so I said heck, yeah.

About 30 people huddled in the Atwood barn, hoping Jim's sound system would allow them to hear over the pounding rain. The range of people was impressive: horse owners, AMA farriers, self-educated farriers (young and aged), barefoot trimmers and one gal who struggled with what to call herself these days—using the alternative Vettec and hoof wrap products meant the horses weren't *exactly* barefoot. I anticipated the endless disagreement that happens when you combine these divergent points of view, and there was a *wide* range of perspectives in the barn that morning.

Jim warmed everyone up and quickly got to his focus—the horses. With beautifully detailed drawings of the skeleton from multiple views, he was able to put his concepts in simple terms that everyone was able to understand. "It's not about the feet; it's about balancing the whole horse and allowing fluid and free-flowing movement," says Jim. "You'll find that attitudinal problems, impulsiveness and willingness to go forward are affected positively by aligning the back end of the horse. Likewise, balancing the front end seems to allow the horse to perform at his best with quicker response, more accurate movement and increased athleticism."

After a lunch break (great homemade food provided by Atwood—yum!), the group broke into four smaller groups with the plan that each would focus on a single horse as Jim traveled among them. Wherever there was resistance to his ideas, Jim would listen, making sure he'd "understood their idea first." Then he'd place their hands on a horse, pointing out the imbalances. "You feel that?" They did. "Now keep your hands right there," he said as he slipped a shim under a heel or toe. "Wow!" was the standard response.

On the second day the farriers and the barefoot trimmers, horse owners and Jim-doubters moved from horse to horse,

huddling together to discuss the misalignments, where to place the shims, throwing questions back to Jim and getting proof as the horses walked, trotted and flexed with their newly aligned posture. He made the point over and over that he wasn't looking to change how they finished a hoof, but to change the thinking that went beforehand. Healthy Stride takes the whole horse and his posture into account prior to shoeing or trimming. Leave a little foot here, add a little shim there and suddenly you have two level hips and muscles that can work properly along the entire back.

If you want to evaluate your own horse, visit the HealthyStride.net website and download the .pdf evaluation form. It's a great tool to start a conversation with your farrier or barefoot trimmer or to utilize yourself if you care for your own horses' feet.

Jim says, "I offer an open door to any horse owners who want to continue their education or resolve a problem with their horses. And in the Parelli program, what I consider to be a problem is the physical inability of a horse to perform a certain or different task—lead changes, flexion, engagement, things like that. (Parelli has already taught them how to resolve the confidence issues). Once owners have been exposed to this, we urge them to invite their farrier to come and shoe with me on the particular horses in his clientele and help him to understand the principles and techniques of Healthy Stride and further his education to become a Healthy Stride farrier."



courtesy photo

Jim works with his son Brandon, who has been shoeing 10+ years and is president of the Healthy Stride Corporation. They have plans to film more of their lectures and make even more information about the Healthy Stride concepts available. People can contact Jim and Brandon through their website, and LeeAnn Walsh will make sure that questions get answered.

I asked Jim to give me a quick understanding of his concepts and what he really wanted people to know about them.

Jim: Healthy Stride shoes or trims according to the entire equine body instead of just the hoof. It's about improving the horses' health, athletic ability, posture and attitude through how you address the feet—whether by trimming or the use of equine orthotics.

Equine orthotics?

Jim: Equine orthotics are simply a temporary support or crutch to replace the imbalance in the hoof capsule. When used correctly, the orthotic element realigns the structural system—the skeleton—of a horse. You can realign the front



end or the back end. Once you have an aligned structural system, all of the attached muscles in that area become the same length, strengthening and holding the new posture, allowing the horse's muscles to work correctly—agonist and antagonist.

Okay, explain that.

Jim: Most of the muscles in a horse are in pairs, or adjoining muscles, where one must release in order for the other to contract. If you bend your elbow to raise your hand, the biceps muscle would contract and be the agonist; the triceps muscle would stretch and is the antagonist. When you lower that hand and extend the elbow, it's the opposite: the triceps muscle contracts as the agonist, and the biceps muscle lengthens as the antagonist.

My horse bending his neck in lateral flexion would be another example?

Jim: Right. Now, when a horse is tight on one side, the opposing muscle cannot release to yield. You'll notice this when getting a horse to yield and flex; the tight muscle allows the horse to flex one way but won't allow it on the other side. He gets stiff and very bracey. Often the cause of the stiffness is a misalignment in the skeleton—one hip lower, a shoulder lower and forward or back.

The skeleton of a horse has several A-frame structures designed to support that big body. When one side of the A-frame is off, it not only stresses the opposing side but weakens the "off" misaligned side. Once you have an understanding of the A-frame structure of a horse, postural alignment becomes simplified.

This misalignment can be fixed with corrective shoeing, and you see the postural change immediately. When aligned and posturally balanced, the horse's weight is correctly distributed left to right and front to back. The muscle takes a little time to redevelop to support the change, but the horse will be able to use all the muscles correctly while this is happening.

What would be some indicators that there's a misalignment?

Jim: A horse with a split mane that's flipped from one side to the other. Notice your saddle fit; if you continually have to straighten your saddle because it's slipping to one side, you've likely got a misalignment. Irregularities in stride, difficulties with canter leads or engaging the hindquarters, etc.

Working with your horse in the round pen or riding in an arena, notice if there is a distinct difference working with the left eye on you versus the right eye on you. A horse that continually drifts to one side, bulges at the ribcage and swishes his tail is not straight in the middle.

You said the orthotics are a temporary support?

Jim: The temporary orthotics allow the horse to realign himself, develop the muscle to support the structures and, within several shoeings, return to excellent health and a normal shoe or trim. There are exceptions in some cases of founder and accidental lameness that would call for a more permanent support.

I barefoot trim my horses. What help can you offer my barefoot horses?

Jim: I regularly work with barefoot trimmers. There are a variety of alternative products that can give the same orthotic support without having to use a metal shoe. 🐾

Testimonials

Dear Jim and Brandon,

Just wanted to thank you guys for the absolutely fantastic clinic this past weekend in Ocala at Joe's place! We learned so much and discovered just how much more we have to learn that we never knew we needed to learn!

It was a very humbling and educational event! You and your staff of professionals were most gracious, and your efforts to educate us were so appreciated! Absolutely one of the most informative clinics we have attended! Top-notch professionalism mixed with the warmth and down-home good times we have come to recognize in folks involved in some fashion with Parelli!

It was such a wonderful experience for us, and we just wanted you to know how much we truly appreciated your time and efforts! We can't wait for the next session and will be there ready to learn! Our horses thank you so much for helping to educate us! — *Shelley & Andy C*

I have hosted six Healthy Stride clinics this past year, and Jim has been doing my horses for the past four years now. He is spectacular! My horses have never been better, and while I have seen him do literally hundreds of horses, I have never seen the Healthy Stride philosophy not work, not once—even on severely injured horses. Of course, Jim is a master; the rest of us are still learning. — *Tina Giordano, Licensed Parelli Professional*

"With every shoeing his limbs got straighter and stronger, and the pain is gone. The first time I hopped on I couldn't believe it was Remmer."

Jim Crew got my attention when he said, "When I look at a horse all I see is A-frames and octagons." Most farriers and trimmers focus below the knee, and yet the entire body is the real clue as to what's going on. Jim proved his theory on Remmer in 2004 when he showed me how crooked his hind legs and body were. His hoof capsules were lower on the lateral (outer) side, and he had terrible flares. His hind legs were bowed out—sickle hocked. He had no power, and my right leads were very difficult. He was even becoming difficult to trim and shoe because he could not support his weight on the right hind with the left being held up. Jim was quick to point out that this was not rude behavior; it was pain. With every shoeing his limbs got straighter and stronger, and the pain is gone. The first time I hopped on I couldn't believe it was Remmer. He felt completely different just standing there! But the best part was the immediate change in my horse's athletic ability.

We had a tour stop in Madison just days after Jim balanced him, and Remmer kept giving me flying changes when I wasn't asking. It was as if he said, "Here are all those flying changes I owe you that I couldn't do before."

Remmer is so powerful now. His body is transformed, and he can do everything I ask. Jim's method is profound, and I urged him to learn how to teach others. People need to learn how to read their horses' bodies, know what's going wrong and why. Our horses have never been stronger or more sound. Even better, they keep on improving.

—*Linda Parelli*

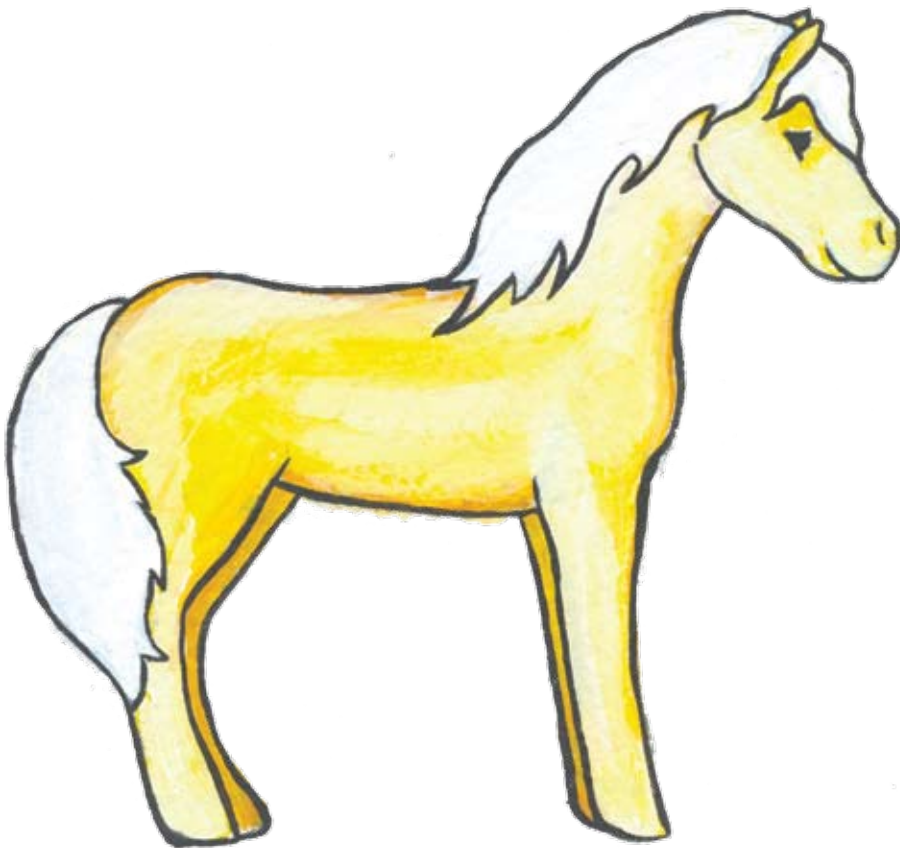
Go to www.healthy-stride.com and download an evaluation guide so you can check out your horse!

Junior Savvy

illustrations by Paula Ellenberger

More fun and games with Elbie and Arbie

*Kids, my sons Elbie (LB) and
Arbie (RB) want you to feed them carrots.
Answer the questions below by circling either the
picture of Elbie (LB) or the picture of Arbie (RB) after each
question. Ask your parents to help you and see how
many carrots you get!*



Shazamm

Circle One

Elbie (Left-Brain)

Arbie (Right-Brain)

Carrots

1. WHICH OF MY SONS, ELBIE (LB) OR ARBIE (RB) ACTS BOSSY?



2. WHICH OF MY SONS, ELBIE (LB) OR ARBIE (RB) HOLDS THEIR TAIL TIGHTLY?



3. WHICH OF MY SONS, ELBIE (LB) OR ARBIE (RB) HAS MORE TROUBLE WITH THE FRIENDLY GAME?



4. WHICH OF MY SONS, ELBIE (LB) OR ARBIE (RB) IS BETTER AT THE MOVE YOUR FEET GAME BY MAKING OTHER HORSES MOVE THEIR FEET?



5. WHICH OF MY SONS, ELBIE (LB) OR ARBIE (RB) IS MORE AFRAID OF A LOG?



6. WHICH OF MY SONS, ELBIE (LB) OR ARBIE (RB) IS MORE LIKELY TO PLAY WITH THINGS IN THEIR MOUTH?



7. WHICH OF MY SONS, ELBIE (LB) OR ARBIE (RB) IS MORE CONFIDENT ON A TRAIL RIDE?



8. WHICH OF MY SONS, ELBIE (LB) OR ARBIE (RB) NEEDS MORE APPROACH AND RETREAT?



EXTRA CREDIT QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE A HORSE OF YOUR OWN? DO YOU THINK YOUR HORSE IS MORE LIKE ELBIE (LB) OR MORE LIKE ARBIE (RB)? WHY? NOW, ASK YOUR MOM AND DAD FOR THEIR ANSWER. DID YOU GET FIVE MORE CARROTS?



Perspectives

What I Learned the Hard Way About Buying Horses.

Decide On Purpose Rather Than Breed

Ann Hemingway, Bournemouth, Dorset, U.K.

I bought my current horse as a complete gungel, and boy, have I learned a lot since then. I have been riding for forty years and have ridden and shared many horses over that time. I thought I would buy a nice, mature native horse (not too demanding) to get me started on horse owning. Little did I know at that time that the effect of a very confident, very forward Left-Brain Extrovert on me as another Left-Brain Extrovert would be explosive! I have tortured my horse for three years (before Parelli) with “You will, you must and you’re just being a thug,” when actually he was sometimes frightened and insecure. I later found he had five owners up to age twelve before me, and that he was sold for being too strong. He gets bored really quickly, and when he is frightened he completely takes over (the Left-Brain Extrovert). Now that I have savvy I feel sure I will be confident enough to spend time getting to know what Horsenality™ my prospective horse is and make a decision based on what we as partners are going to do rather than breed characteristics that can be so wrong.

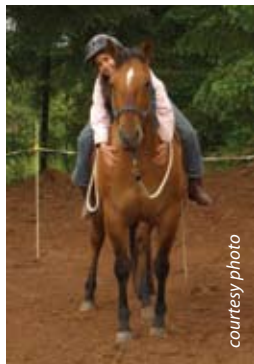


Principle #7 For My Daughter

Pam Kinion, Eugene, OR, U.S.

“Horses teach humans and humans teach horses,” Pat says.

Armed with that and the Horsenality™ model, we have purchased a been-there-done-that Left-Brain Introvert American Quarter horse mare, Abby. I introduce Abby to new tasks well before my daughter, Skylar, attempts to learn them. Abby, a quick study who *loves* carrots and scratches, lets my daughter know when she needs to work on



her technique—by just standing there! Skylar will be auditioning for Level 1 very soon.

Purpose - Horsenality - Take My Time!

Christine Dillmann, Usingen-Eschbach, Germany

My horse Rica is a nine-year-old Hanoverian mare. My reasons for buying her: she was very pretty, with impressive pedigree; she was started in dressage; I liked her challenging manners; I knew her mother; and I thought that after thirty-five years of experience with horses I certainly was qualified enough to handle her! Well, everything except her being pretty was useless, unimportant and wrong. As Pat often says, “My horse was perfect, except...” After having owned her for a year, I thought about selling her. That’s when I heard about Parelli. I went to an introduction with a licensed Parelli professional, and that was our start on a new way of life. If I had to buy another horse, I hope that I would decide first what I want



to do with this horse; spend time watching the horse to find out its Horsenality™ and spirit; check how and by whom this horse was handled before (what learned behavior do I have to expect?); and take more time for this decision.

Choose Your Own Horse

Anouk Bakker, Varssweld, the Netherlands

It’s every girl’s dream—one day you arrive home, and suddenly there is your first horse waiting for you. Initially everything seems fine until you get on and fall off before you’re even sitting properly. Your dream horse turns out to be dangerous, mean, unwilling and dominant. Where is the horse I had dreamed of? Why all this rearing, bucking, biting and running off?

If I were given the choice back then, I would have wished for another horse. I know now that getting a horse from someone

who chose this horse for you isn't a dream. It's like buying clothes that don't fit you.

Thanks to Parelli, we now fit.

And we fit perfectly, getting better every day. With the

Parelli knowledge I now

have, I actually would have bought her, wanting to solve her problems. We just take the time it takes, and it takes less time!



If In Doubt, Don't

Donna Hendry, Pingaring, Western Australia

For my first horse I bought a Right-Brain Extrovert Thoroughbred. I knew nothing. I bought the cheapest horse I could find on the advice of an experienced (but non-Parelli) rider.

I ignored many warning signs, especially the advice of my



Parelli friend. I ignored many comments made by the previous owner, which would now send off alarm bells in my head. However, we both learned a lot before I gave him away to some-

one more suited to his Horsenality™.

I learned:

- * Horsenality™ is the single most important thing, though not the only thing.
- * Think of why you want this horse. What do you hope to do together? Do you want a challenge or not?
- * Try to get a trial period, or visit often to play with and ride the horse. Try and take him out of his comfort zone. One ride is enough if you don't want him, but not enough to decide if you do want him.
- * If in doubt, don't do it!
- * Don't rush or be pressured. A decision about a life partner doesn't come quickly.
- * Cost is the least important factor. A cheap horse is not often a bargain.
- * Listen and look for clues about horse and owner. Do not compromise on something you feel is important.
- * Ride and play with lots of horses to help your savvy grow.

Know More About Horsenality!

Holly Fite, Boulder, CO, U.S.

I just wanted to share my thoughts on buying a horse. I never gave much savvy thought to the four horses I have pur-

chased. I bought them for looks, breed/type and ability to do what I wanted. Well, hindsight is always 20/20.

Looking back, I wished I had known more about Horsenality™ and could better match my level of savvy, abilities and personality to the horses as individuals. I likely would have made better choices that suited me and therefore nurtured better horse-human relationships. Instead I ended up with horses that were way beyond my capabilities and were too much for me to handle.

Luckily, my current horse, a Left-Brain Introvert, is exactly what I need; he matches me perfectly. He was a chance Christmas gift, and in a way, we found each other. He has proven to be the best non-purchase I ever made! Just like love, we find what we need when we stop looking.



Pick Your Partner, Not Your Poison

Meggie Allen, Okemos, MI, U.S.

I've heard Pat say, "Green on green makes black and blue," and I've lived it mentally, emotionally and physically. With the desire to ride and nothing else, I invested in my first horse.

Over the next few years there were many times I got hurt or nearly hurt and didn't know why. I didn't know what I didn't



know. After a few years of studying Parelli and the advancement of Horsenality™ I am able to see that not only was I lacking savvy, but my horse and I were not compatible. It was a tough realization to accept, but once I did accept it, everything became easier. Not only that, but I was able to find another partner whose Horsenality™ fits my personality. Looking at horses

now through the lens of Horsenality™, it is a lot easier to see that the most successful path is to pick your partner, not your poison—although my first horse still holds a very special place in my heart. I now feel I can take the time it takes with him, and meanwhile I have progressed by leaps and bounds with my new partner.

"I only use and recommend professional grade because horsemanship is my art."
—Pat Parelli

I began making my own "natural" equipment in the early 1980s because most horse-training gear is designed for restraint and force rather than teaching. It promotes predatory hard, quick hands—the opposite of what a sensitive prey animal needs.

All my ropes, reins, halters and sticks have been developed to improve the flow in your handling skills and communication with horses.

It all supports what I need to teach you about "feel": hands that close slowly and open quickly... it's the release that teaches and the drift that builds confidence.

Professional Grade Equipment available at www.parelli.com

**Horseman's Halter • 12-foot Line • 22-foot Line • 45-foot Line • 6-foot String
Carrot Stick • Horseman's Reins • Finesse Reins • Cradle Bridle • Bareback Pad**

Professional Grade



Finding Neutral

by Pat Parelli

One of the most challenging things to get across in the Parelli philosophy is the notion of a horse having responsibility in his partnership with you. In fact, there is an argument that you cannot give a horse responsibility, but I do not agree at all.

I've been training horses since the early 1970s, and my mentor, Troy Henry, is the man who showed me just how much horses are capable of. If you give them a task, they can follow it. They can get mentally involved, and what develops is a true partnership in which each has his own responsibilities. I talk about this at length in my work on the Eight Principles, the fourth of which is "There are mutual responsibilities in a partnership: four for you and four for the horse."

In this article I'm going to focus on the horse's responsibilities:

1. Don't act like a prey animal, act like a partner.
2. Maintain gait.
3. Maintain direction.
4. Look where you are going.

Many riders not only don't give their horse responsibilities, they take them away! So you are not developing the partnership when:

1. Your horse is afraid of you.
2. You have to hold your horse back or keep urging him forward to maintain gait.
3. You micromanage him to keep him straight or on a circle.
4. You tell him "Watch out!" when there's a hole, a pole or a fence in the way.

The definition of responsibility is trustworthiness, dependability and accountability.

So . . . how do you give your horse responsibility, and how would you hold him accountable?

On the Ground

The Circling Game* (#5 of the Seven Games) is the biggest test of responsibility on the ground, which is why so many people have difficulty with it, especially if they have an introverted horse. Horses are taught from an early age to go with the human when you are leading, so asking them to go around you while you do nothing can be quite a challenge.

In normal longeing the horse is constantly urged forwards with the longe whip, but in the Circling Game it is the horse's responsibility to keep going in the gait you have asked for while you are in neutral. *True* "neutral" means you are relaxed,

could even be talking to someone, checking your manicure, anything except concentrating on your horse or waiting for him to make a mistake. A horse can feel intention, so if you are in the *position* of neutral but not *feeling* neutral, your horse will feel pressure. That's what happens when you are concerned about what your horse is doing rather than just trusting that he's going to do what you've sent him out to do—stay on the circle and not change gait. The secret is to adjust only when he doesn't uphold his responsibility to maintain gait and direction. This makes it fascinating for the horse as compared to the mindless micromanagement of longeing.

*In the new Levels Pathway we have moved the Circling Game to Level 2 On Line so you gain a little more savvy first.



It's Magic's responsibility to keep circling and negotiate obstacles in her way.

Riding

The best way to teach a horse responsibility is through FreeStyle. Think of it this way: When you are on a trail ride, it's the horse's job to stay on the trail so you can enjoy a relaxed ride on a nice loose rein. There is nothing worse for horse or rider than a tense tug-of-war!

You should also teach your horse patterns, such as to follow the rail of an arena, do a cloverleaf or canter a circle on a loose rein, because it's important to develop your horse's mental and emotional fitness as well as his physical fitness. At first you'll guide him on the pattern, and then you'll give him progressively more responsibility by loosening the reins and



Pat is in neutral giving Aspen the responsibility of following the rail.

touching them only to gently put him back on the pattern if he strays. Every time you put him back, you have held him accountable for straying, but the moment he is back on the pattern you drop the reins and trust him again.

It takes about four to seven sessions for the horse to learn the pattern *and* to realize that you are actually giving him responsibility. That's why you start to see remarkable changes in your horse when you develop him via my positive patterns (Parelli Patterns). He can actually participate, as opposed to being a puppet. Once you've felt a horse so totally in partnership with you, you'll never want anything less than that . . . and neither will he.

The more you use your reins, the less they use their brains.

Finding Neutral

On the ground, *neutral* means keeping your feet and emotions still. I call it developing independent feet!

When riding, *neutral* means not moving your hands or feet or changing the energy in your body or seat. However it does

not mean you relax, because relaxing should tell your horse to stop. Riding is an active sport, and you need to have the required amount of energy in your body and seat for the gait and speed you want to ride at. Then keep that energy the same until you want to change it.

If you are riding through turns or on a circle, you would turn your body and focus in the direction you are going but keep your energy the same. This is harmony, but you are in neutral. The opposite of neutral is micromanagement, which gives the horse no freedom, no responsibility. It makes his mind blank.

Allow the Mistake

Over my many years of teaching I've found I constantly have to reassure people that they can allow their horse to make a mistake and he'll be better for it. I have a saying, "*The more you use your reins, the less they use their brains,*" so the opposite is also true. It will teach your horse to think and to ask questions of you instead of robotically responding to micromanagement. When you prevent a horse from doing something, he doesn't learn anything, so he'll keep doing it, and you'll keep having to prevent him from speeding up, slowing down, turning too soon, turning too late, etc.

Turn the reins loose and watch what happens. He'll probably:

1. Head straight for the gate!
2. Speed up or slow down and stop, and maybe eat grass.
3. Change directions.
4. Have not the slightest idea of what to do!

If you think about this from the horse's point of view, how do you think he's feeling? Confident or lost? Like a partner or like a loner? Connected or disconnected? When you teach your horse to have responsibility, you'll change all this and develop a confident and interactive partner.

Reminded, Not Reprimanded

Accountable means "held responsible," so when your horse does not keep up his part of the deal, you have to remind him by picking up the reins and putting him back on course, then releasing the reins again. Your attitude is critical here, because you don't want to reprimand or punish the horse. He doesn't know what he's doing wrong, and he probably hasn't learned yet what the expectation is or even that he has a job to do! Gently put him back and trust him again, smiling as you do it. This is where you have to give it at least – four to seven sessions, because consistency is a good teacher. It won't be long before you'll find yourself riding a horse on a cloverleaf, and he's actually making all the turns and asking you if he should stop in the center—but not actually stopping until you agree. 🐾

Fundamentals of Performance

Long-Distance Rides Endurance, BHS TREC, NATRAC

by Pat Parelli

If you study the historical uses of horses, transportation is a big item on that list, and I believe that the concept of today's long-distance rides evolved from the military's use of horses for transportation.

They had to calculate how long it would take for a man and a horse to get from one location to another over a given distance, doing it in such a way that the horse and rider (or the troop) arrived in good enough health to perform the task at hand. On Line, Liberty and FreeStyle are huge training components for long-distance rides, as these events—particularly NATRAC—are judged from the moment you pull up with your horse in the trailer until the time you leave. The confidence that horses and riders gain while studying the Parelli program—combined with FreeStyle's concept that the more you use your reins, the less the horse will use his brains—creates a well-rounded education for both horse and rider.

My experience in long-distance rides comes from Freddy Ferreira. Freddy Ferreira was a national champion on his horse

Patches back in the '60s. So I rode a lot of 25 and 50-mile NATRAC rides with him. I've become particularly fond of the TREC/NATRAC concept, because good horsemanship on the ground as well as in riding is part of the judging process. You need to be able to cross streams and negotiate other natural obstacles. It involves fitness training, pacing during the course and a plan so you know when to slow down to keep your horse's heart rate within a specific range while monitoring the overall hydration and temperature of the horse.

For cross training I would recommend the Four Savvys. There are many opinions on how to condition horses, but it is easy to downplay the value of playing with a horse On Line. If you had a pedometer on your horse during an On Line play session at the trot and canter, you might be surprised to discover that your horse traveled four or five miles in twenty minutes—and that is without having to bear the weight of a rider and tack. The musculature of a horse can develop very differently if you incorporate On Line and Liberty sessions along with a riding component and conditioning program. I believe that employing the concept of interval training founded by Dr. Tom Ivers¹ can also be valuable, as it complements the Four Savvys nicely. Conditioning is important for the human as well. If I were to recommend one type of physical conditioning for the human that would provide a good form of complementary non-equine fitness training, it would be bicycling.

Finally, the peril in this sport is not so much overspecialization, as the sport requires versatility; the peril is in focusing on the winning aspect and forgetting the relationship. Any sport can be natural; you just need to remember to put the relationship first, study in Four Savvys, put the foundation before specialization and work on never-ending self-improvement.

Ideal Horsenality™: Extroverted horses.

Endurance and NATRAC

There are two main types of long-distance riding: competitive trail riding (NATRAC) and endurance rides. In endurance



rides the winning horse-and-rider team is the first to cross the finish line while stopping periodically for veterinary inspection that deems that the horse is in good health and fit to continue. In the U.S. the typical length of an endurance ride is fifty or a hundred miles. NATRAC rides are shorter, and other factors figure into the judging: horses may not come in under or over a certain time; veterinary checks are required; rider behavior is evaluated; horsemanship is considered; and other elements play a role in placing.²

BHS TREC

BHS TREC is a competition designed to test a horse/rider combination through a variety of activities rather than focusing on any one discipline. The sport requires versatility and combines trail riding, jumping and flat work.³

Q&A with Linda

Q: I am a Level 3 student studying with a Missouri Foxtrotter mare. We do endurance, and she has just achieved her 1,000 miles. During a clinic, the instructor and I discovered that playing the Porcupine Game with a fingertip on her withers would result in her turning in the corresponding direction or giving a FQ yield. She is an extremely sensitive mare who started out as Right-Brain Extrovert and is now more of a Left-Brain Extrovert. The instructor thought that I might have been “over-phasing” her and that I should be able to get much more now with much less.

We did a 55-mile endurance ride this past Sunday. I was cantering down the trail, monitoring her heart rate. It usually is between 185 and 195 at the canter or gallop. I decided to place my hands on her withers (similar to the passenger position), and I began directing her with a very light Porcupine Game. The most amazing thing was that her heart rate would drop down immediately to around 113. I played with this throughout the ride, and she was consistent. She had a higher heart rate when I was in my “normal” riding position and a lower heart rate when I was in the passenger position directing her with my fingertips. I would love to know your thoughts on this! Catherine

A: What a great story! I love hearing things like this. Not that I am any kind of technical researcher, but I know that horses



courtesy photo

get calmer with the Pushing Passenger lesson, and my belief is that this occurs for a couple of reasons:

1. The rider is more secure and therefore more relaxed, not as tense or nervous.
2. That spot in front of the withers has a calming effect when pressed. Pat teaches it in colt starting when first touching a horse and first saddling. When you push down on this spot harder than when you cinch, the horse stays calm through the cinching.

Hearing that it actually affected heart rate and that you could measure that is fascinating. Thank you so much for sharing!

Yours naturally,
Linda

¹ Tom Ivers was an equine physiologist and consultant who was a promoter of interval training primarily for Standardbreds, Quarter Horses, and Thoroughbred racehorses. His book, *The Fit Racehorse*, was a radical change of approach to fitness training in horses. His later version, *The Fit Racehorse II*, benefitted from years of practice and research and is a more complete work.

² For more information on endurance riding, please visit www.aerc.org. For more information on NATRAC, please visit www.natrac.org.

³ For more information on BHS TREC, please visit www.bhs.org/UK

Behind the scenes...

My name is Carol Coppinger and I am a 5-Star Senior Premier Instructor for Linda and Pat Parelli. I was asked to write a small piece about being in the new Mastery Program at the Parelli University from January 2009 through March 2009. I have been teaching and sharing their program for twelve years now.

Each year I schedule time to work on my horse-man-ship and realign my understanding of Pat and Linda's dream of changing the world and raising the level of horsemanship worldwide. I am never disappointed!

Well, this year was *different*, and what I mean by that is that Pat was *on fire* with his visions of the future...and starting right now. As many of you may know, my life before my career as a Parelli Professional was all about computers. I designed complex business systems for twenty years. I spent thousands of hours with business executives discussing, planning, drawing, exposing visions and getting to know their needs as leaders. I was taking their visions and designing computer systems to bring to life systems that would support the grand designs that had been conceived.

So here I was, planning to spend three months getting to know the new formats for the classes at the center, looking forward to spending time riding horses with Pat and Linda, helping as needed in the school, riding with Walter Zettl and lots of other things. Upon my arrival I checked in with Pat and got settled in. He was working on organizing his horse development reports, and I began to help.

This is when Pat saw firsthand what I could do on a computer and realized that he had an opportunity to get his vision from his heart to his head and onto a piece of paper. Until that time he had not realized what my life before Parelli consisted of—designing and documenting new systems! He really wanted people to understand the value of traveling the Levels Pathway and how to get your good better best! As I sit here writing this I am not sure if I can share what it is really like helping a true master reveal his inner vision, but I will try to give you some insight.

Pat Parelli began by explaining that there had always been ten levels, but for the longest time only Level 3 and maybe 4 had been revealed. Now it is becoming clearer that Level 3-4 is not only a wonderful goal for the recreational horse lover, but also the hub or foundation for performance and sport.

He proceeded to deeply explain and make clear the Ultimate Levels Pathway: how being a Parelli student means being a

member of the Savvy Club in the same way a university student is a member of the student body, and that Levels 1 and 2 could successfully be done at home, and if students could also access a Parelli Professional through lessons of courses it would help support their progress. The Advanced Savvy Program, which is Levels 3 and 4, could still be accomplished at home with some support from a Parelli 3-, 4- or 5-star Professional, and that an intensive course at a Parelli Center would accelerate the journey tenfold. The Mastery Program is for students who seek higher horsemanship and/or have professional or competitive/performance goals. It begins after Level 3.

Pat has realized that to help students achieve their dreams he would need to devote at least six months and possibly up to six years to their development, honing and fine-tuning their skills, providing the right environment, situations and horses. This is where Levels 5, 6 and 7 come into view, and this is why Pat has developed the Mastery Program—to take the most dedicated students and help them attain those levels. The most intensely focused students will be developed not only in horsemanship but in all the areas of study necessary to produce a well-rounded and experienced Parelli Professional. These areas include everything from teaching to horse development, as well as the detailed and accurate record-keeping and facility operation and management skills required.

When the most focused students get their skills and savvy up into Levels 8, 9 and 10, a sovereign journey begins, and you are on your own. This is what Pat saw Tom Dorrance and Ronnie Willis do for him.

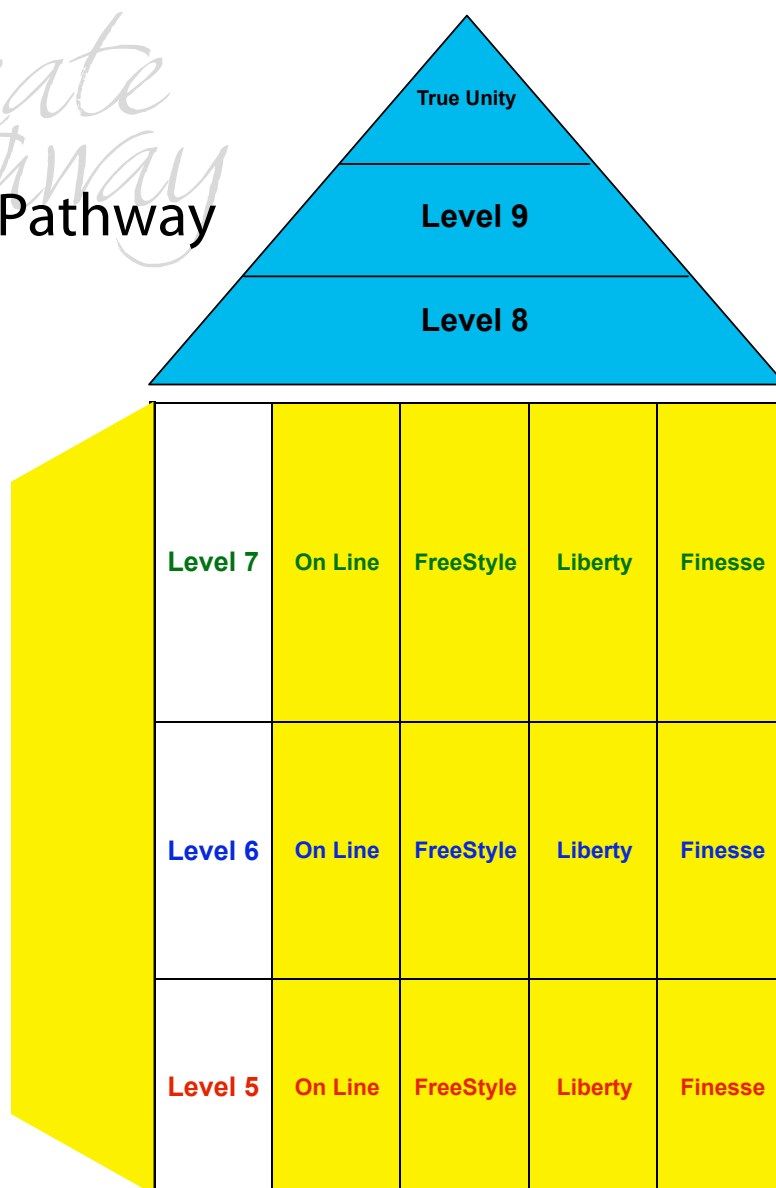
In summary, my time here working closely with Pat to reveal this important next stage of his vision has been life-changing and will forever be a highlight for me. Along with all this I played with horses, learned more about cow-working and had the honor of riding Pat's super-horse, Magic, in lessons with Walter Zettl...and to top it all off, I received my black string. And as if that wasn't enough, Pat presented me with Legend, one of his budding super horses from the Atwood Ranch, as my new lifelong partner. Wow, what a journey. I feel privileged to have gotten to take part in such a quest.

As intense as the time planning, designing, drawing and printing was, it was worth everything to be working alongside a true master to reveal his vision and help make the journey transparent and understandable for those choosing to join the Parelli journey of a lifetime. 🐾

The Ultimate Levels Pathway

Mastery Program
Professional and
Competitive Application

**Parelli Horseman's
University**



Advanced Savvy Program

Primarily home study with
lessons as needed and courses
for intensive study.



Level 4	On Line	FreeStyle	Liberty	Finesse
Level 3	On Line	FreeStyle	Liberty	
Level 2	On Line	FreeStyle		
Level 1	On Line			

Savvy Program

Primarily home study with
lessons as needed and courses
for intensive study.



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1. Learn the Secrets of Teaching Horses - "The Seven Games"
2. Discover the secret of understanding horses as individuals - "Horsenality"

The Parelli Patterns

Constructive and fun exercises for your horse. These Patterns are Pat Parelli's blueprint for developing a solid foundation on his horses because they exercise a horse mentally, emotionally and physically. It's your road map to success, plus it automatically and naturally brings out the leader in you.

"The first thing I check when I ride a horse is if he knows what I'm asking him to do. If I put him on a circle, does he know it's a circle or do I have to micromanage him? If I head him towards something, is he looking for what this is? If I go towards an obstacle, is jumping it the only think he's thinking about? I don't like horses to be mindless puppets, I want them mentally, emotionally and physically involved as my partner. How I do this is through patterns." —Pat Parelli

rapid progress



Solving Spooking

by Linda Parelli

If you were a prey animal and knew that other animals hunted you for food, wouldn't you be alert to every little noise or unexpected movement in the bushes?

Just try walking through the bad part of town and you'll start to feel what the horse feels! Danger is lurking, and every hair on your body is standing on end in an effort to detect and react to that danger as quickly as possible. Your survival depends on it.

The intensity of a horse's fear is such an easy thing to forget when he spooks—it scares us, it's frustrating, seems unpredictable and can be very dangerous. The more unsafe the horse feels, the more he spooks, which means the safer he feels, the less he will spook. It is up to us to teach our horse to feel safe when in our presence no matter what else is going on. Gradually this will affect him in other parts of his life as he becomes a more confident, trusting and settled animal.

The horse is one of the best, most successful prey animals on the planet. He has survived millions of years of predation with

his capacity to detect danger, his lightning-fast reflexes and his ability to outrun predators. Being spooky is critical to survival in the wild, but it is often the reason people lose confidence and sell their horses. Yet with a little savvy you can help that spooky horse be your perfect partner.

The Wrong Thing at the Right Time

How we react is going to either help the situation or make it progressively worse, because the horse is not only scared of the thing that's spooking him; he's also scared of the thing on his back. Spooking is a reaction that scares us, too. We don't want to fall off, so we grab on for dear life, quickly gripping with our legs and pulling back on the reins. In this moment, nothing could be worse for the horse, because it feels as if a lion has jumped on his back—the claws are in, he can't run



away, he's being dragged to a stop, he's totally trapped, and for sure his life is about to end.

There are two aspects to solving the problem of spooking. You need to know what to do and what *not* to do in the moment. But even more important is how to prepare your horse so he doesn't feel the need to spook.

What NOT to Do

- *Don't pull on the reins.*

When a horse feels the need to flee, holding him back can cause total panic. Obviously you don't want to be run off with, but there is something better to do.

- *Don't chastise the horse and think he's acting like an idiot.*
"What? It's just a stump!"

When you growl at your horse or punish him, it makes him afraid of you and confirms that you are a predator.

- *Don't make him go up to it in order to prove to him that it's not scary!*

If you were afraid of a snake and someone was pushing you toward it, would that help? No! Same with horses. But horses do not have the capacity to reason the way we do. They spot an unusual shape, and it means danger. They don't realize it's the same bucket that was there yesterday but now is tipped over. They just know that something in the environment changed, and this could mean danger. Horses are incredibly perceptive. As you help them to become braver you will not change their perceptiveness, but you will change the intensity of their reaction.

Success with a spooky horse starts with total understanding and freedom from judgment, because he needs our leadership and protection and to not feel additionally threatened by us. From there we can start to increase a horse's confidence so he can act more like a trusting partner instead of a prey animal who is literally scared for his life.

What to Do When Your Horse Spooks

As with just about everything Parelli, watch what everyone does and do the opposite!

- *Point your horse's nose toward the danger, but allow him to drift sideways or backward.*

Do *not* push him toward it in any way. When facing the danger he cannot take off in blind panic. Even if he goes backward pretty quickly, it's a lot slower than a gallop!

- *Remain calm.*

Remember that you are supposed to be a leader, and your horse has to be able to depend on you. If you get scared, it's going to scare him threefold! Learning how to manage your

own emotions is critical. First you have to not react, and then you have to do the right thing.

- *Stay balanced without gripping.*

It helps to push on the base of your horse's neck, which will anchor you and loosen your legs automatically.

- *Use one rein for control if things get really bad.*

This is an emergency one-rein stop. When you bring your horse's head to your toe you can stop him more effectively and safely than if you pull back on two reins.

- *Get off if necessary.*

A scared horse is a dangerous horse. Get off quickly and then help your horse to calm down.

- *Act as if nothing happened rather than make a fuss and force him to go up to the scary thing.*

- *Commit to better preparation for a better future.*

Take the time and make the effort to teach your horse to become calmer and braver so he is more confident in himself, in you and in his environment.

The Seven Games are applied through Parelli Patterns, and together they create positive behavioral changes in your horse and advance your horsemanship and leadership skills.

Calmer, Smarter, Braver

Repetition, approach and retreat are the keys for desensitizing a horse and building his confidence, but the real secret is preparation. Confidence is about being prepared for the unthinkable. Every day that you play with your horse you need to be doing something in some way that improves his confidence.

Some horses are not very spooky at all (usually Left-Brain horses), but you still need to improve their confidence as insurance for the future.

Here are some ideas for developing your horse's confidence:

1. Teach your horse the Seven Games. This gives you a language with which to communicate, and it establishes your leadership in a 51:49 partnership. The Seven Games are applied through Parelli Patterns, and together they create positive behavioral changes in your horse and advance your horsemanship and leadership skills. All are important for overcoming spooking.
2. Respect fear thresholds. When your horse hesitates and won't go forward it is usually because he's afraid. Rather than force him forward, retreat and reapproach the threshold until he offers to cross it without fear.

3. Develop the extreme Friendly Game. Can you get to where your horse stands relaxed and calm while you whirl your Carrot Stick and string around (overhead like a noisy helicopter, slapping the ground all around him)? Use approach and retreat over many sessions, getting stronger, then softer, stronger, softer, but maintaining the same rhythm. If you stop when your horse reacts, you'll teach him to react. Keep going; just get softer or move away some, and pretty soon your horse will learn to not worry.

Important: Learn when your horse is calm versus frozen in fear. Look for soft eyes, regular breathing, level head, no tension in flanks or neck, as opposed to staring eyes, irregular breathing, a high head or really low head, tense neck and flanks, which will tell you that he's actually still worried.

4. Send him over tarps, under tarps and through narrow squeezes. Using the Squeeze Game pattern—going back and forth, back and forth—is very calming for a horse, and when you do it near the object he's afraid of you'll find that he may get curious and want to go up to it, which is great so long as it is his idea!

5. Following is a great way to build a horse's confidence. For example, if he is afraid to step on the tarp, simply drag it around until he tries to catch up to it, sniff it and step on it. Same with fear of vehicles or dogs or bicycles—as long as it's going away from him, he'll get the courage to go toward it, and pretty soon it won't matter what angle it comes from—it won't bother him.

6. Bring his energy up sometimes while playing with him on the ground, urging him to gallop, such as on a 45-foot Line or in big corral at Liberty, and then help him calm down by gradually focusing him on a task, such as putting his foot on something. This is about expanding his emotional fitness so he can think even though his adrenaline is up.

7. Put a plastic bag on the end of your Carrot Stick like a flag, and cut the end open so it doesn't balloon up. Ask a friend to sit on a chair or log and gently rattle the flag while you play with your horse. At first he's going to be distracted and afraid, but the key is to ignore it. Gradually your horse will



Pat uses just the right amount of control and drift to help a very spooky horse become braver.

get more focused on the task you're giving him and ignore the commotion, too. Do this every day for seven days in a row and then keep it up a couple of days a week until your horse doesn't even give it a second look. (Using a Parelli Pattern such as Figure 8 or 180s is a good idea.)

8. Teach your horse to bend to a stop with one rein from the walk, trot and canter. Try not to release the rein until he calms down, and pretty soon it will actually become a calming exercise. (Note—Do not force or fight your horse. Take the time it takes and help him to learn it as a skill.)
9. Take every opportunity to help your horse become braver. Whenever he is worried about something, practice the different things to do: Turn his nose toward it and let him drift;

give him a task or pattern to do to change his focus; bend him to a stop and get off; play the Squeeze Game near it; follow it. Stay cool, calm and collected yourself.

Building a horse's bravery takes time and repetition, and it is our responsibility to help our prey animal trust our decisions and adapt to the environment, not live in fear.

Most people clamp onto a scared horse because their program says "Stay on no matter what!"

That's how you get hurt. Change your program and change your results.

Work on your own emotional fitness and develop appropriate reactions:

1. Think before you act or react.

We should always remember that the horse is a prey animal that will default to fear, and that we are a predator who defaults to fight. A technique we teach when a horse does the opposite of what you want is to say "How interesting!" It helps you to think before you act instead of reacting, and in this way you're more likely to do the right thing for the horse in

the moment. As you practice something as simple as this, you are practicing keeping your cool when a horse spooks.

2. Improve your skills.

How quickly can you reach down one rein, bend your horse and step off (without falling over!)? This needs to become second nature, so automatic that you can do it as a positive reaction in a negative situation—a situation in which you don't have time to think. Under stress you are likely to do what you have been programmed to do, so this little safety drill is a great program to install. Most people clamp onto a scared horse because their program says "Stay on no matter what!" That's how you get hurt. Change your program and change your results.

How Will Things Change?

Some horses will completely stop their spooking, while others will just spook a lot less. For example, instead of jumping out of their skin and changing counties, they will flinch and cock one ear at the object and the other at you, as if to say, "Should we be worried?" And you'll reply, "Nah, it's just a stump," and sail on by. 🐾

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A PARELLI PREFERRED PRODUCT

Level with Me

by Linda Parelli

Setting goals such as learning particular skills and tasks is important for never-ending self-improvement.

The Levels Pathway has hundreds of tasks for you to learn to do. They are organized into Four Savvys and Four Levels of expertise. In this section we will focus on some specific tasks from the Self-Assessment checklist, which can be found on the Savvy Club website: www.parellisavvyclub.com.

FREESTYLE LEVEL 1:

"Trombone" on the rein

Description

Preparation for lateral and indirect rein positions, such as when bending your horse to a stop with one rein. Hold the reins up with one hand while sliding the other hand up and down. It looks like playing a trombone!

Purpose

For the horse—It is a Friendly Game, helping him to relax when you go to pick up the rein rather than brace in self-defense. This is especially valuable when horses have been hurt in the mouth by rough handling and are afraid of the contact.

For the rider—It teaches you how to close your hands slowly. Trombone three times before closing your fingers one at a time and then bending your horse into lateral flexion or using an indirect rein to disengage the hindquarters.

Quality

Use rhythm and relaxation. This is not a quick motion; it is a soothing one that builds confidence in the horse and helps you to soften and relax the muscles in your hand, arm, shoulders, stomach, seat and legs.

Level

It is not used beyond Level 1 for rider skills unless the rider still has a tendency to grab the reins, but it can be used any time a horse loses confidence in the contact.

Note: It is not used in an emergency one-rein stop.



Level with Me

FINESSE LEVEL 4:

The difference between a half pass and a leg yield

Description

A leg yield causes the horse to step diagonally forward (sideways and forward) while keeping the body straight, with no flexion. A half pass travels in the same direction but asks the horse to flex his body in the direction of travel. (It is half of a side pass, therefore a half pass.)

Purpose

The leg yield teaches the horse to glide away from the rider's leg while traveling forward. The half pass is an engaging and more powerful maneuver. It is also a lot more advanced.

(Leg yields, haunches in and shoulders in are all preparations for the half pass.)

Quality

As part of the Parelli foundation, you are not expected to perform these maneuvers at dressage quality. Willingness, trust and softness are more important than power or speed. You only need to do them over a distance of approximately 20 to 30 feet.

Level

Leg yields are tested as a Porcupine Game (Game #2) in Level 2 at the walk, Level 3 at the trot and Level 4 at the canter. Half passes are tested as a Sideways Game (Game #6) in Level 3 at walk and trot and in Level 4 at the canter. The half pass is also combined with flying changes in the zigzag maneuver.



Pat and Magic in a half pass to the right.

Linda's Journey

Encouraging Allure by Linda Parelli

Our work on Horsenality™ has been a huge help in understanding my “interesting” Trakehner gelding, Allure. In fact, I shudder to think how much trouble I could have had if I didn’t have this key.



Not only was Allure too much horse for me, he was damaged goods—a Left-Brain Extrovert who shut down and ran away inside himself under pressure as a coping mechanism. So any time I asked him something, his eyes would glaze over. It took me a while to realize what I was seeing when this happened, and I came to understand that his behavior was the same as that of a Right-Brain Introvert.

I often use the term “bipolar” to describe him because he goes from one extreme to the other. Again, it took me a

while to realize that I was not adjusting my approach quickly enough. But recently I discovered a clue that has led me to yet another breakthrough with him. I had gotten quite proficient with the Right-Brain Introvert side, and all of a sudden he started to really trust me. It was a little perplexing, because I didn’t realize that was an issue, but of course it was. According to the ultimate training formula (this issue, page 81), I had managed to get him calm and more obedient, but I did not really have his trust, motivation or willingness.

As soon as he decided I could be trusted, he was like a normal horse. I wish I had a better word than that! It was huge. I already knew how to have him feel safe when teaching him something, so the revelation was about how to get him into a learning frame of mind more quickly. Oh, boy!

Instead of asking him to turn back again, I just changed my Carrot Stick to the other hand and supported his idea with a light flick toward Zone 5.

A Mover, Not a Thinker

Introverted horses are thinkers, so they need to think before they want to move. Extroverts are the opposite—they need to move before they can think. All of a sudden I realized where I was making the mistake with Allure and where I had been getting it wrong when I first got him. I was making him feel wrong. I was telling him to slow down, stop, back up when all he wanted to do was play, so he would argue with me. Left-Brain horses love to argue, especially as they are bigger and stronger than you and can take you sand-skiing at will.

I used to try and channel his energy into more constructive things, which led to a lot of ‘conversation’, but as soon as I encouraged his play he connected with me very quickly, and it was fun! Here’s how I did it:

At Liberty I would send him out, and often he would change directions right away. Instead of asking him to turn back

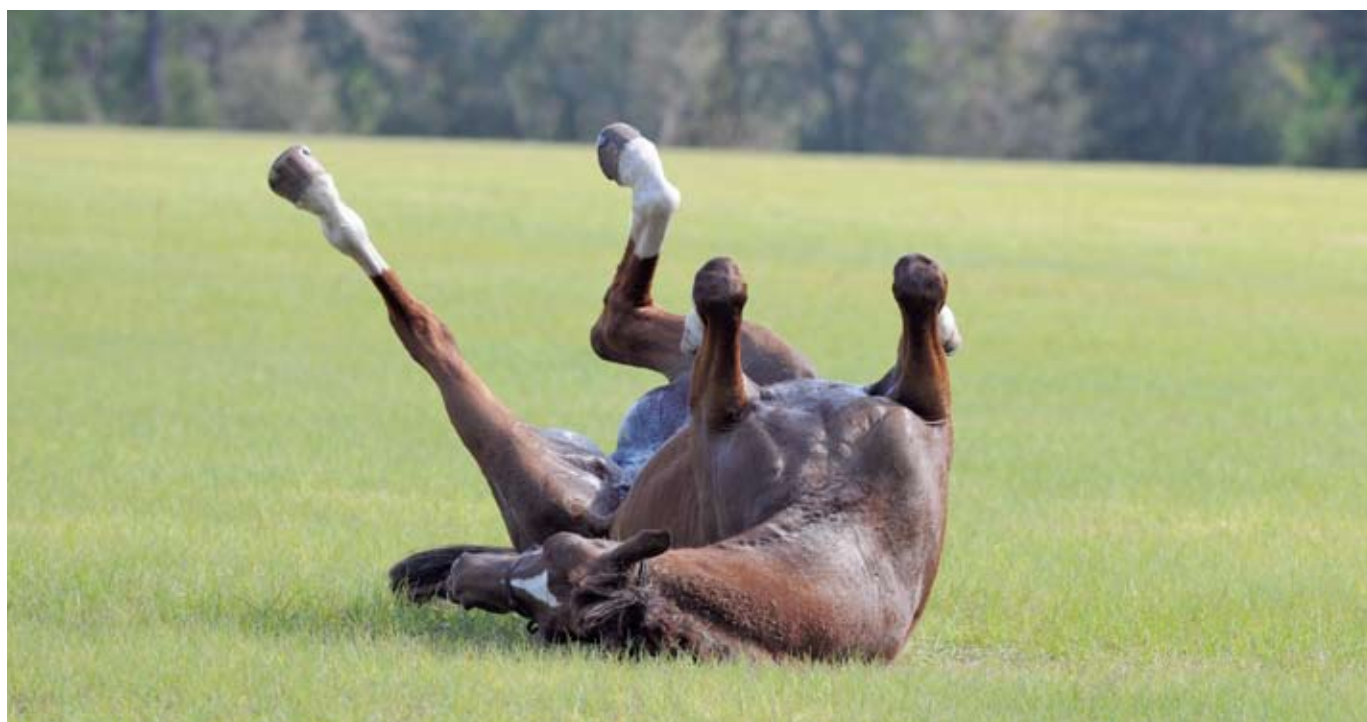
again, I just changed my Carrot Stick to the other hand and supported his idea with a light flick toward Zone 5. If he got faster, I did the same, and if he slowed down, I’d allow it and then speed him up again, seeing as it was his original idea to go faster anyway.

The change has been incredible. Within minutes he wants to come to me and is interested in what I want him to do.

During my Liberty Horsenality session at the Parelli Celebration event in Franklin, Tennessee, Allure wanted to go backward! He’d learned that recently, so when I backed him up to send him on the circle, he kept on backing around the corral. When he stopped I’d ask him to go forward, and he’d start backing again. So I kept supporting that idea (I want him to learn to back in circles anyway), and then he stopped and asked me a question (looked at me with ears forward) as if to ask, “What would you like me to do?” I asked him to go, and he was just super—transitions, flying changes of direction and finally leading him backward by the tail. It was fun, and he was so funny, we all enjoyed his antics and learned a lot about how each Horsenality needs a different approach to get into that learning frame of mind.

Every time I play with Allure now, that’s what I do. I support his ideas first. Hmmm, where have I heard that before? *Cause your idea to become his idea, but understand his idea first.* I just didn’t realize what “understand” really meant. I now know it means “encourage.” 🐾

NEXT TIME—Motivating Remmer



The Savvy Club Vault

Your Information Gold Mine!

I am just writing to say thank you so much for all the amazing videos, clips, documents and info on the Savvy Club site! I have been recovering from a heart operation, which is a horrible thing for anyone, but especially for an outside horsey person who lives to be with her horses.

The hours and hours of amazing info and videos have been the most amazing boost for me. I have learned so much even though I haven't been able to play with my horse. Actually, I did have my first play with my horse and tried a few things that I had learned from the site, and it went amazingly well!

The Parelli TV and "Live Your Dream" series even made it enjoyable to be inside. So thanks, Pat and Linda and Parelli team, for such amazing resources!

—Rebecca J., Adelaide, South Australia

Oh, my gosh, what great material! This is really totally awesome. Lots of good stuff to begin my golden relationship with my horse through Parelli. Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to grow even more! Since I began with the Parelli program, I've never been disappointed. And with the new upgrade, my expectations are being completely satisfied way above and beyond. I can't put this material down.

Thank you, Linda and Pat!

This is really totally gold material!

Saves You Time

If you've got a very busy life the Vault is like getting a newspaper and going right to the sections and headlines you want to read. It's like having Parelli on demand.

Parelli Video Library:

Every Savvy Club DVD from the Savvy Club launch in 2003 up to today are now here for you in the Savvy Club Vault. And now you can see them in 20 minute chapters so you can schedule your savvy boosts more effectively. Many of our Parelli TV shows are now also here!



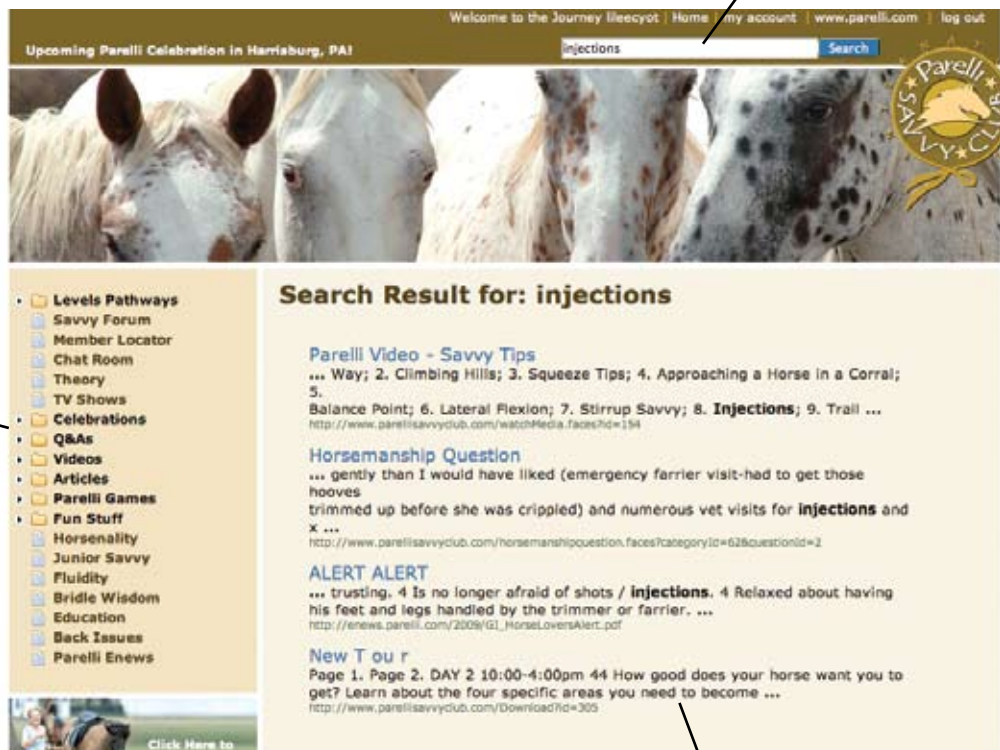
Club Vault

Getting Info is easy as 1, 2, 3!

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3. Enrich your mind, increase your savvy, solve your problem and see answers to questions just like yours.

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When you have a question the answer is here. We have thousands of answers to questions from students just like you all over the world! And if your answer is not here, email us: savvyclub@parelli.com. If our staff or highly trained faculty cannot answer your questions, Pat and Linda will... plus there is the Gold Hotline for Gold members. No question goes unanswered in the Savvy Club! We are here to support YOUR success every step of the way.

Hey, Doc!

How to Ask Your Vet to “Friendly” Your Horse Before Injections

by Teri Sprague

If you have been Parelli-ing very long, you will have noticed that many of Pat’s sayings have applications in other areas of life. One that applies here is Rapport, Respect, Impulsion, Flexion.

I see you scratching your head, so let me explain.

Rapport

With your vet as with your horse, you must first discover what is important to him. Generally the needs of vets fall into one or more of four categories:

- Safety (they don’t want to get hurt)
- Efficiency (they want to get the most done in the least amount of time)
- Profitability (they want to get paid for their time or effort)
- Client satisfaction (pleasing you and/or the horse)

Once you discover which of these things are important to your vet, you have a launching pad for discussion.

Respect

You will generate respect when you can show and/or tell your equine practitioner how playing the Friendly Game with your horse will help him get what he needs. Don’t use Parelli language he may not know; instead, talk about building rapport or confidence, or helping the horse be calm. Better yet, use an analogy or word picture that is non-threatening

and non-judgmental. For instance, you could say, “Can you remember a time when your senses were on high alert, and then some little harmless thing caused you to jump or panic or maybe even hit someone?”

Impulsion

This has to do with your timing. The timing of your request will often determine how successful it is. Talk to your vet when you set up the appointment. Let them know that you appreciate their services and that you know it is important that they are as safe and efficient as possible; therefore, you would like to schedule a little extra time (which you are willing to pay them for) so that you, your horse and the vet can all have an experience that will produce good relationships.

Flexion

This is our goal—creating flexibility in ourselves (by taking into consideration our vet’s point of view), in our horses (an emotional and physical flexion that will help them relax in response to a potentially negative stimulus) and our vet (being flexible with their time and procedures for the horse).



Needle Prep Technique

Pinch your horse's neck gently until he tips his head toward you, relaxing the muscle. Then release and rub until he is relaxed. If he has trouble or moves away, help him understand your idea by tipping his head toward you with your line. Release at the slightest try. Do this on both sides of the neck and also in the jugular vein area, so all areas produce the same relaxation response.

To see a video demonstration with Pat Parelli, go to: www.parellisavvyclub.com and search "injections."

Teri Sprague is a Licensed 3-Star Parelli Instructor and has been a Parelli Professional since 1997. Besides teaching clinics and lessons, she has developed a Horse Behavior course for veterinary students, which she teaches at Colorado State University. 🐾



AR DATEFORTHECOLONEL
Brynna Diller, Canutillo, TX

"Thank you so much for all your help and kindness. I am SO excited. He's happy, I'm happy, my Grandpa and Mom are happy—so it looks good for the future!"



AR DREAMWEAVER
Kelly Sigler, Wagener, SC

"He is without a doubt the brightest horse I've played with. Not to mention the enormous amount of try, talent, athleticism he has. It is amazing how much can be achieved with great bloodlines and proper handling from the beginning. Ricky is a dream horse."



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Ann & Jim Kiser, Lebanon, OR

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with the foundation they need,
from the brands you trust.*



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Your Horse's Back and Posture

change shape as soon as he begins to move

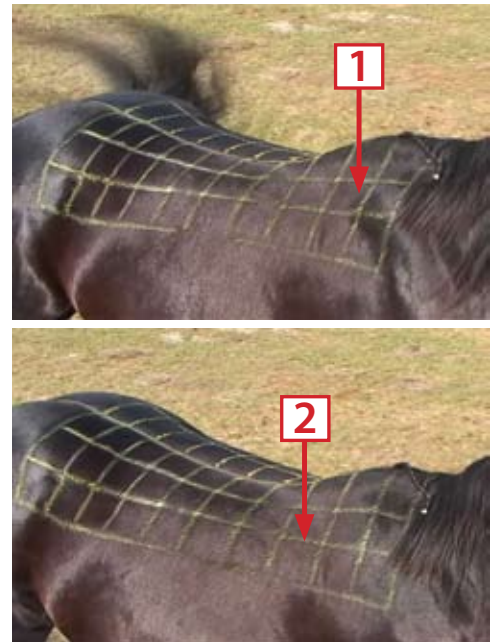


Does your saddle encourage or restrict it?

After years of trying to help students develop riding skills to enable them to move fluidly with their horses, Linda Parelli realized that the saddles they were using were getting in the way of progress. She formulated a passionate mission to fix this! We knew that we needed to measure and document what happens when a horse moves, and find a way to build saddles that would accommodate all of that. The photos here illustrate some of the research we did during a process that has spanned the years between 2001 and now. We tested thousands of horses and a variety of breeds. Much information about this (and the revolutionary result) is available on video on our complimentary DVD.

If a saddle does not give a horse's spine, back, shoulder muscles and scapula plenty of room to be free to move, the result can be painfully restrictive. So, we began to build saddles that DO provide space for this. Further, we learned that when we positioned the saddle on the horse's back, we needed to keep the front of it just behind the back edge of the scapula (position 1 on photo at right) so as not to block the scapula's ability to swing backward. (Blocking this swing causes shortening stride and rounding shoulders). Also, we always make sure that the stirrup bar pressure point is behind the furthestmost backswing point of the scapula. (Position 2)

Parelli saddle trees accommodate the natural movement of the horse while distributing rider weight over a broad area that hugs the horse's body in motion.



Photos above show the range of scapula movement and lifting of the back that occurs when a horse gets into motion. IMAGINE what happens at the canter, and why the horse needs a saddle that doesn't pinch!

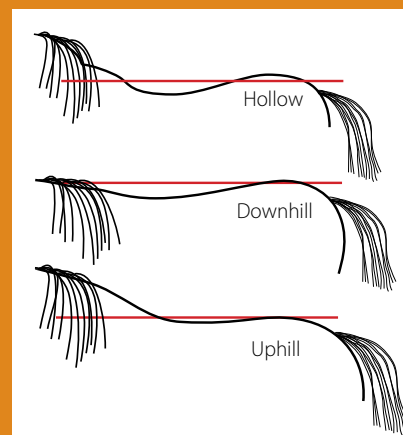
How to use Shims to make up for what's missing in the shape of your horse's back

This big Warmblood needs enough Therashims in the Theraflex pad to fill his hollow area and lift the front of his Parelli Fluidity saddle so that the pommel is almost at the same height as the cantle. The saddle will then be at the proper angle to cradle the rider securely on the balance point. This will tend to keep rider weight back and off the horse's forehead, which is important for success all around.



"Thank you for my Parelli saddle system...for the happiness I feel in my horse, who has suspension I could only imagine before this! His transitions and lead changes feel effortless. I am living the rides of my dreams! Thank you for the commitment it must have taken to provide something that could make such an instant, radical difference!" —T. W. Florida

Is your horse's topline shaped like one of these? ...or a combination of them?



The concept is really quite simple: Picture the empty space between the level line from the croup to the withers, and think about filling it in with shims so that your saddle can be up out of the way of your horse's hips and shoulders, allowing his back to lift and move.

Do you know that many behavioral issues when riding can be attributed to a saddle that is restrictive or even painful?

Not only that, but your horse's posture and muscling are strong indicators for this. Does your horse have a poorly muscled topline ...or, uneven muscle development? How about a bulging/rotated shoulder? Does he have a troublesome time collecting...or a tendency to avoid downward transitions when ridden? Is his gait short or choppy? Does he tend to rush, slow or stop without being asked? Does his head nod "up" instead of "down," especially when you trot or canter? Does he have an unhappy expression or irritable behavior under saddle, look unhappy or move away when you approach to saddle him?

As soon as you put on a saddle that sits back from the shoulders and gives them room to move, the horse changes his posture and the shoulders start to move more naturally.

When you use a Parelli Saddle system, the reversal of the problems listed above are astonishing! We've learned how to read a horse's body, and you can, too. You'll know what your horse is trying to tell you and how to improve things dramatically for him.

Restrictive Saddle Result



Comfortable Saddle Result



Our saddle clinics are more than saddle "makeovers." They are in-depth studies of biomechanics, posture analysis, how to free up a horse's back... and yours. It's amazing!

To find out if there's one scheduled in your area, contact your Parelli Instructor or check out the information on www.parellisaddles.com / Saddle Specialists and Clinics. IF YOU HAVE A GROUP TOGETHER and wish to schedule a TEST RIDE CLINIC in your area, please go to www.parellisaddles.com with your request.

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Parelli Saddles

by Norma Vela

I Still Believe in Happy Endings

He was a small bay Thoroughbred cross, so starved and neglected that where the sharp angles of his bony frame jutted through his dull coat, the hide was worn bare. Beau was so emaciated when the Humane Society of the United States finally seized him that he could barely walk.



This gentle equine, barely eight years old, had already experienced the worst of human behavior. And while his physical recovery has taken many months and he's now beautiful, healthy and strong, his emotional and mental recovery has remained uncertain. Fortunately, as Pat often says, "Horses never forget, but they often forgive."

Beau is the first rescue horse to be brought into the powerful partnership between Parelli and the Humane Society of the United States. He "starred" at the first 2009 Celebration in Franklin, Tennessee. Over the course of three days Pat Parelli introduced Beau to what a positive horse-human relationship *could* and *should* look like.

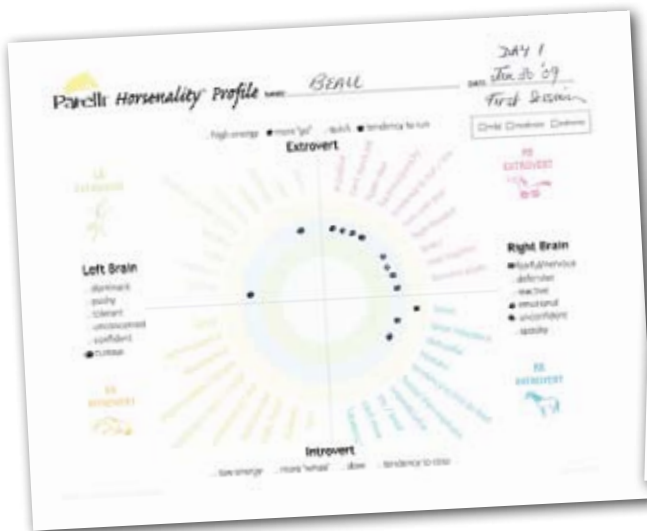
On Day One Pat started in the round pen at the very beginning: on the ground with the Friendly Game. He moved pur-

posefully through the other six games as the round pen came down and Beau learned the Touch It pattern, to get confident on the tarp, around the barrels and on the pedestal and took a look at the trailer. Every moment Pat and Linda were reading his Horsenality™. See Beau's profile for Day One.

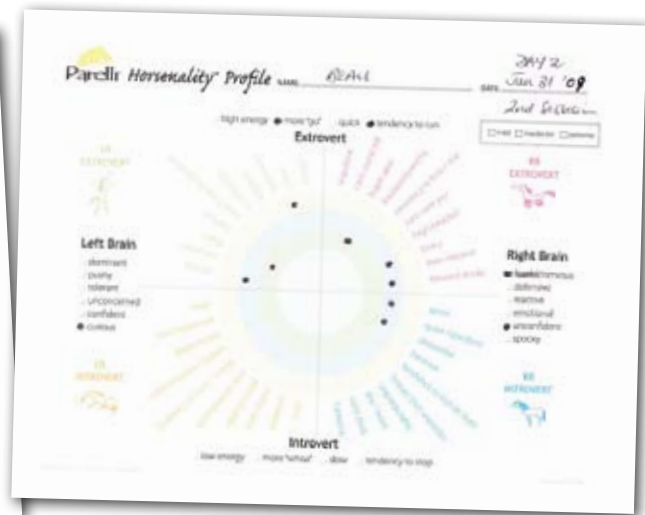
On Day Two Pat gave Beau a good model to follow by sending Aspen in at Liberty with him. Beau immediately decided being with Aspen was a good idea. It was clear that Beau had learned not only to push into pressure but to break *through* it. Working from the saddle on Aspen, Pat continued to establish communication and leadership to give Beau greater confidence. "This horse can't be touched with a 10' pole," Pat said, so he brought out a 14' one! It gave Beau greater distance from which to feel safe and allowed Pat to play Friendly, build

rapport and check Beau's responses to pressure. By the end of the Catch Me session, Pat was able to touch and rub Beau on the friendly spot in front of his withers, retreat, and have Beau follow him and stand calmly beside Pat and Aspen. Parelli Professional Trevor Carter joined Pat and compassionately established enough relationship to touch Beau, rub him, prepare for mounting and finally climb on. Pat led on Aspen as Trevor rode bareback, constantly offering Beau confidence and "friendly." See Beau's Day Two profile for the changes.

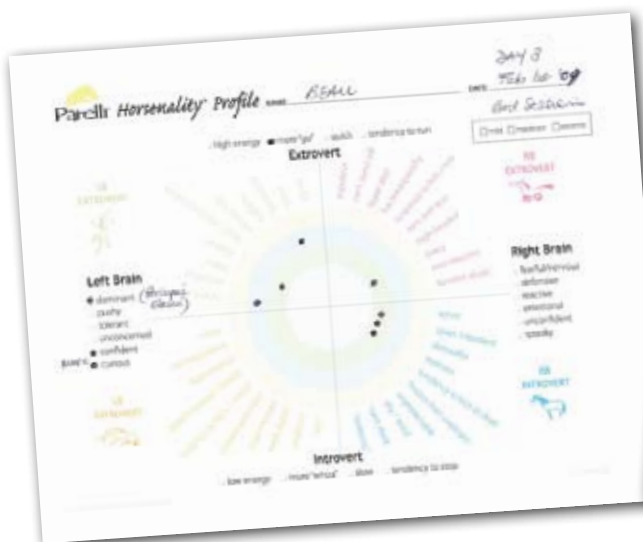
In the final session, on Day Three, Pat worked with Beau astride a very cool horse, Vision, whom Pat calls his own rescue horse. Vision was once impossible to catch and even worse to ride. The audience was able to watch Pat develop two horses at once. Beau continued to push through pressure, and Pat reminded everyone that horses learn a lot of things they don't need to learn. "Humans do, too," he added. Pat did find the right time to saddle Beau and step up onto his back for a tour of the arena. It was clear Beau needed someone to take the



Day 1



Day 2



Day 3

It's astonishing how much Pat can do with a horse in just three sessions!



Day 3 - Positive Attributes

time it takes with him, and Pat made the offer to stay in Beau's life, take him back to the Florida Parelli Center and continue his renaturalization. See Beau's Day Three Horsenality™ chart for his progress.

Today Pat says that Beau is making great progress. He's got wide-open spaces in which to move his feet and knowledgeable, compassionate partners to guide his emotions and development. Pat has been playing with him on the ground on a 45-foot Line as Beau has developed more and more confidence. Pat says, "He's definitely more people-friendly." One of Pat's protégés, Amy Book, is also playing on the 45-foot

Line and has started riding him bareback as well. Beau's new human has been out to visit and will also have plenty of support in developing this new lifetime relationship.

We'd like to acknowledge Volunteer Equine Advocates in Gallatin, Tennessee, for the extraordinary efforts they made in bringing Beau back to good health. We understand that his medical expenses were well above what is normally allotted, so if you would like to be a part of Beau's rehabilitation by helping with his past expenses, please send a *tax deductible* check to VEA, P.O. Box 112, Gallatin, TN 37066 and specify Beau's expenses in the description line. Thank you! 🐾





Thank you so much for developing the C3 Cradle Bridle for my Left-Brain horse. She would rather use this bridle than just her halter when I play with her. She willingly accepted it the first time she used it, and her mouth stays quiet and closed.

*I can tell the C3
feels natural to her.*

The pressure is more evenly distributed on her entire head, and our control, contact and collection are improving every time I ride. I have a five-year-old Registered American Paint horse named Lacie. Being a retired schoolteacher, I play with her and ride her four times every week. This bit system and your entire Parelli Natural Horsemanship Program can't be beat! Currently we are working on Level 3—Refinement. Keep up the excellent work and teaching so we can all improve every time we ride! —Kelly

For more information visit www.parelli.com

Cradle Bridle

How to *Succeed* with the Patterns

Parelli Patterns help you to develop a calmer, more trusting, more motivated and willing horse—Pattern by Pattern, level by level. In this example we're going to show you how to use a pattern to develop trust or motivation with an introverted horse.

Figure 8 Pattern

The goal is not just to do the Figure 8, it's to give your horse responsibility and allow him to think and interact with you.

So you send him and guide him around the first barrel, and then he should head to the second barrel, and you guide him back to the first, and on it goes.

Notice that you keep guiding him, but you should only send him once!

If you have to urge your horse to keep moving forward, you are not giving him any responsibility for not changing gait, so he's not going to use his brain, which means it is not a conversation, which means it's not going to improve the relationship!

You should only urge him to go again if he stops. But even at that moment you should figure out why he stopped. Was it fear and insecurity (Right-Brain), or was it dominance (Left-Brain)? And you'll only know by waiting. If it is fear, your horse will be tense and then finally breathe a sigh of relief and come to you, and if it was dominance he'll start eating grass or looking for something mischievous to do. The point is to wait and wait and wait, because the next move is his.

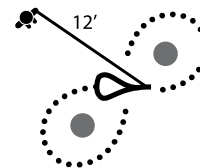
The moment he moves you make the choice to bring him to you and reward him or send him on his way. The first couple of times on the Pattern, I'd bring him to me and call it quits, even if we didn't complete the whole Figure 8, and I'd check it off on the map (wall chart) as session one done and six to go.

By not coaxing your horse when he's unsure you'll build trust in the Right-Brain horse, and you'll build curiosity in the Left-Brain horse, which ultimately leads to motivation—he actually offers to keep moving!

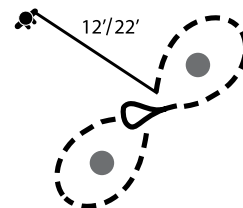
It's Not about the Pattern!

Rather than telling your horse what you want, learn to ask your horse questions—"Are you ready to do this?" Pretty soon your horse will ask you questions—"What do you want me to do next?"

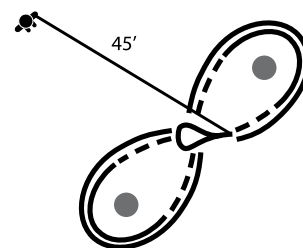
Until you can have a conversation you are merely bossing your horse. Patterns will help you go to the next level in your relationship and therefore your next level of expertise.



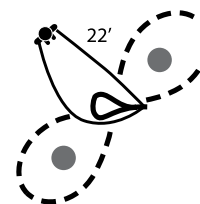
Level 1 On Line
12-foot Line, Walk



Level 2 On Line
22-foot Line, Trot



Level 3 On Line
45-foot Line, Trot and Canter



Level 4 On Line
2 22-foot Lines, Trot

by Linda Parelli

The Ultimate Training Formula

For almost 20 years I've been watching Pat with horses in many different situations of all levels and wondered why he stopped so soon or kept on going with a horse.

"It's what the horse needed," he would tell me, but I couldn't see what he was reading in the horse that told him it was the right time—until the Horsenality™ Profile was born. Now it's as clear as day to me, because I know what the *goal* is for each Horsenality.

If you look at the Goals chart on the next page, you'll see that the goal with a Right-Brain Extrovert is to get him calm. For the Right-Brain Introvert, the goal is to increase his trust and confidence. The goal with a Left-Brain Introvert is to get him motivated, and with a Left-Brain Extrovert it is to increase his willing obedience. I say *willing* obedience because he's got to *want* to rather than be made to behave. There's a big difference.

The formula to use is this: first make sure your horse is calm, then build his trust, then increase his motivation and finally gain his willing obedience.

Now look at those four elements—*calm, trusting, motivated, willing*. Sounds like the perfect horse, doesn't it? You just have to find it, reveal it, then keep it.

You have the power to reveal the perfect inner horse by getting him more emotionally balanced in these four areas, and then it's your responsibility to not push him off balance when you are teaching him. The formula to use is this: first make sure your horse is calm, then build his trust, then increase his motivation and finally gain his willing obedience.

The entire time you play with your horse you have to be checking on these things, just like the performing plate-spinner who balances plates on the top of sticks and then spins them. First he gets one plate balanced and spinning.



Then he starts another. Then another, then another, and finally he's got all the plates spinning at the same time. His job then is to see which ones are

slowing down or getting off balance and immediately fix them so they all keep spinning in perfect harmony. That's what *you* need to do with your horse. You need to see which element is getting out of balance, and the *moment* you notice it you have to address it. Mastery in horsemanship is taking care of the little things, and as Pat says, "*Do less sooner rather than more later.*"

Reading It

What does a calm horse look like? Can you recognize calmness and not confuse it with laziness? Can you see when your horse is more trusting or gaining confidence? Can you recognize motivation and not confuse it with overexcitement? And do you know what willing obedience looks like?

Even though at first each one is going to be very specific to each Horsenality, pretty soon every one of them applies to every Horsenality, and you'll use the Horsenality concept to define the training stages.

Stage #1 CALM

You are aiming for a calm, relaxed horse. Level-headed, no tension anywhere, happy to stand still, soft eyes, soft ears, soft tail, relaxed way of moving.

Many people get confused because when their Right-Brain Extrovert horse gets calm, he no longer looks like the same horse! "I think he's sick today" is something I hear from students, and I've even said that myself, because when your Right-Brain Extrovert finally gets calm it's a total surprise, and he doesn't seem like himself! In fact, some people think that he's turned into a Left-Brain Introvert, but that's usually not the case. He's just calm.

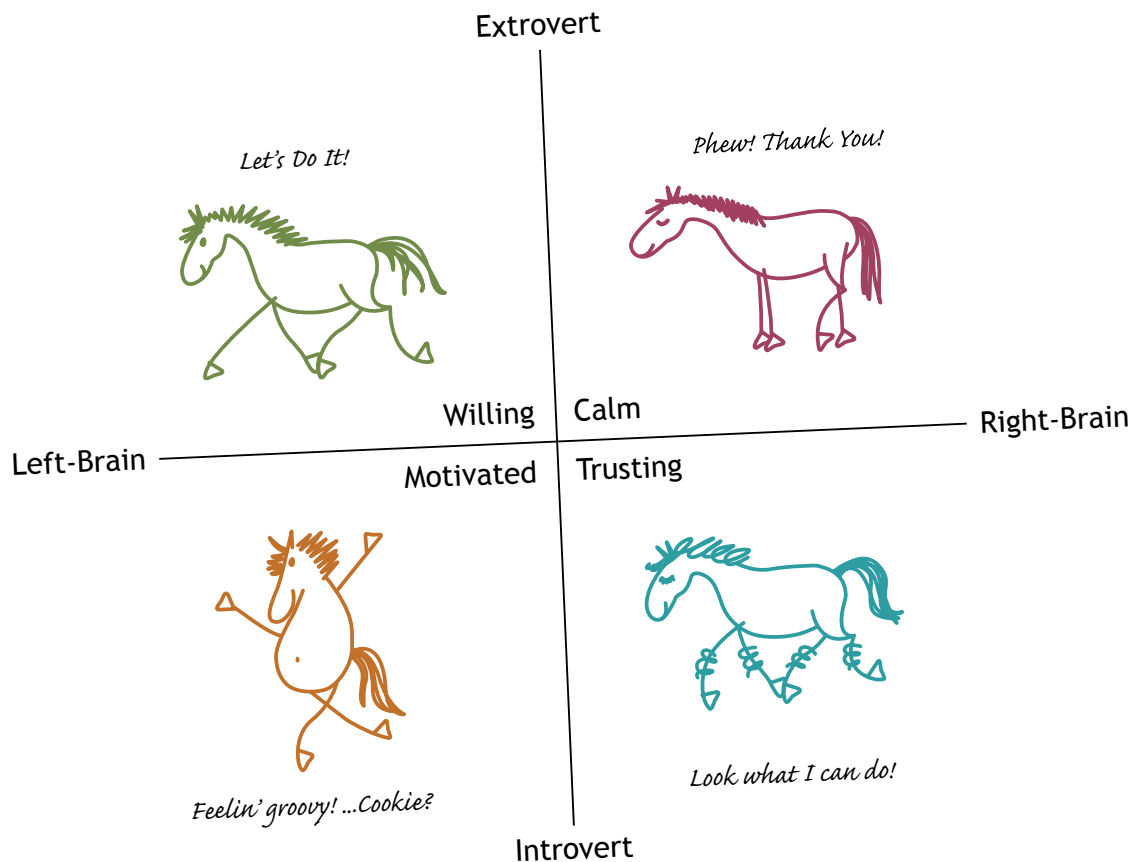
Calm your horse by first getting control through rapid hindquarter disengagement/change of direction and then giving his distracted and fearful energy a focus (e.g., Figure 8 Pattern).

When Stage #1 of the ultimate training formula has been achieved, you need to progress to Stage #2.

Stage #2 TRUST/CONFIDENCE

It's often easier to identify a horse that *doesn't* trust you and lacks confidence because he is hesitant, tense, shy, reserved

The Goal



and spooky. He tends to withdraw, quietly having trouble with your requests. If you don't realize what's going on and up your phases, things tend to get worse, and all of a sudden the horse is upset and you've lost calmness.

If you misread this one, progress grinds to a halt. You might still be able to get your horse to do things out of obedience, but without quality. His ears are back, and he doesn't want to look at you; or he has trouble coming to you, and you're having to do a lot of coaxing or micromanaging because, although obedient, the horse actually offers you nothing and seems shut down. This is not disrespect; this is a horse freezing up with fear, running away inside himself and shutting out the external pressure.

A trusting horse is more bonded to you, engages and asks questions (looks at you, ears forward, waiting for direction),

has a positive expression and *offers to do things for you*.

When you get it right you'll feel him open up to you because he no longer feels vulnerable around you. He knows, without a doubt, that you would never force him to do something he was not ready to do; and that, my friend, is what builds unshakable trust.

Build trust by waiting for your horse to respond, or start again rather than hurrying or pushing through. Use a lot of gentle repetition, and repeat until the horse is relaxed. Pretty soon he'll start to open up and offer things to you, and he'll feel confident enough to keep moving.

Don't confuse calmness for a lack of motivation, because although at first they seem to look the same, they are two completely different states.

Stage #3 MOTIVATED

Another word for motivation is enthusiasm. How enthusiastic is your horse? Does he put energy into the things you ask him to do? Does he look forward to doing things with you, whinny or come to you—*run* to you—when he sees you? Does he want to be with you more than with his pasture mates?

Don't confuse calmness for a lack of motivation, because although at first they seem to look the same, they are two completely different states. Calmness indicates a lack of fear and is a state of relaxation. Until you have a calm, trusting horse, it's impossible to develop motivation without it feeling like pressure.

When your horse is motivated, he is magnificent, powerful and full of energy, so you'll need to know what to do with all that, or your horse could take over and dominate you.

Build motivation by giving him responsibility (Patterns); support his ideas, do the unexpected, be provocative, keep it short, make it interesting—and quit before you overdo it!

Stage #4 OBEDIENT and WILLING

An obedient horse is a well-trained horse but can lack exuberance if the other parts of the ultimate formula are missing. You've seen it—he's a Stepford horse! He dutifully does everything he's asked, but there is no light in his eye. He's a robot. Many of these horses develop psychoses from being so suppressed. The tail is de-nerved or injected with alcohol to stop it swishing from too much spur, head tied down, mouth tied shut, and he's longed in mindless circles until he is too exhausted to play up. This glorious animal is robbed of his spirit and is empty inside. He's even too broken to protest anymore.

So when we talk about obedience, this has to be his *gift* to us because we help him feel safe . . . because we gain his trust . . . because we encourage him to play. He will *want* to do what we want.

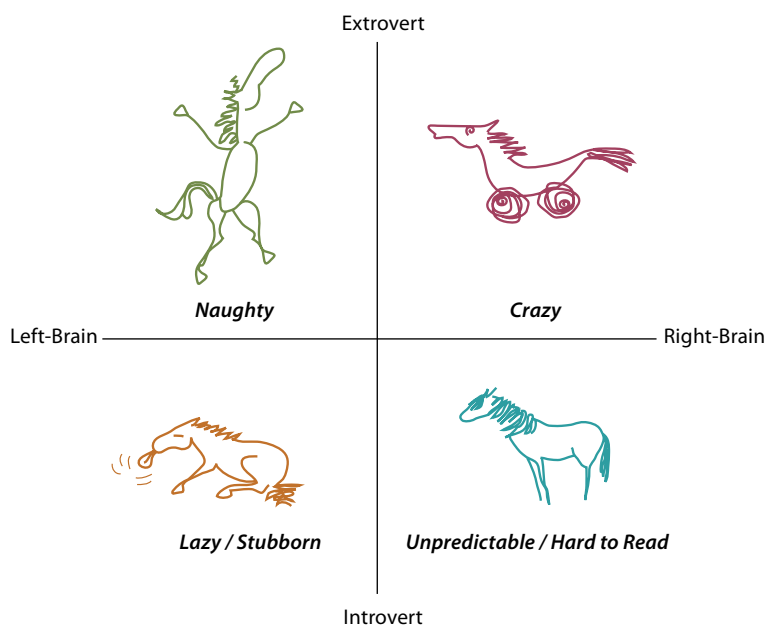
Have you ever felt that in a horse? All of a sudden he walks calmly into the trailer or offers you something incredible like flying changes or a beautiful trot, yet just moments before he was cavorting around, flying through the air and being thoroughly naughty.

Obedience comes from encouraging your horse's wants. When you *help* him do what *he wants to do* he will all of a sudden get interested in you. It really works! However, what tends to be hard for us is letting go of the need to immediately control him and make him behave; we pull him back when he wants to leave and criticize him for doing

something when we didn't want it. If you encourage his ideas in the beginning, he will have a completely different opinion of you and stop being argumentative and resistant.

Receive willing obedience by supporting and encouraging his ideas. The next time your horse decides to change direction, support it. When he wants to canter or gallop and buck, encourage it—on the ground, of course! Just don't let him near you until he's settled down, and don't try to teach him anything or ask him to do anything until you see that he's in a learning frame of mind. And when he's there, know that he's a super-learner!

It's usually easier to identify Horsenality through the imbalances that arise around people without savvy.



Don't Blow It!

As a horseman in the making it's inevitable that you're going to misread some situations or do the exact wrong thing at the right time. So here is a brief guide for you that will help prevent things from going backward! Remember: A mistake is only something you make when you know better, so treat everything that doesn't go quite right as a learning experience. It's *valuable*!

One of my favorite quotes is from Buckminster Fuller, the great philosopher, architect, global thinker, inventor and futurist: *"I've made more mistakes than anyone I know . . . that's why I know so much."*

Upsetting the Calm

- Not enough consistency, too much variety too soon
- Not recognizing and addressing early tension
- Over-facing: asking the horse to do something he wasn't prepared for
- Punishment/harsh corrections
- Lack of leadership/plan

Blowing the Trust

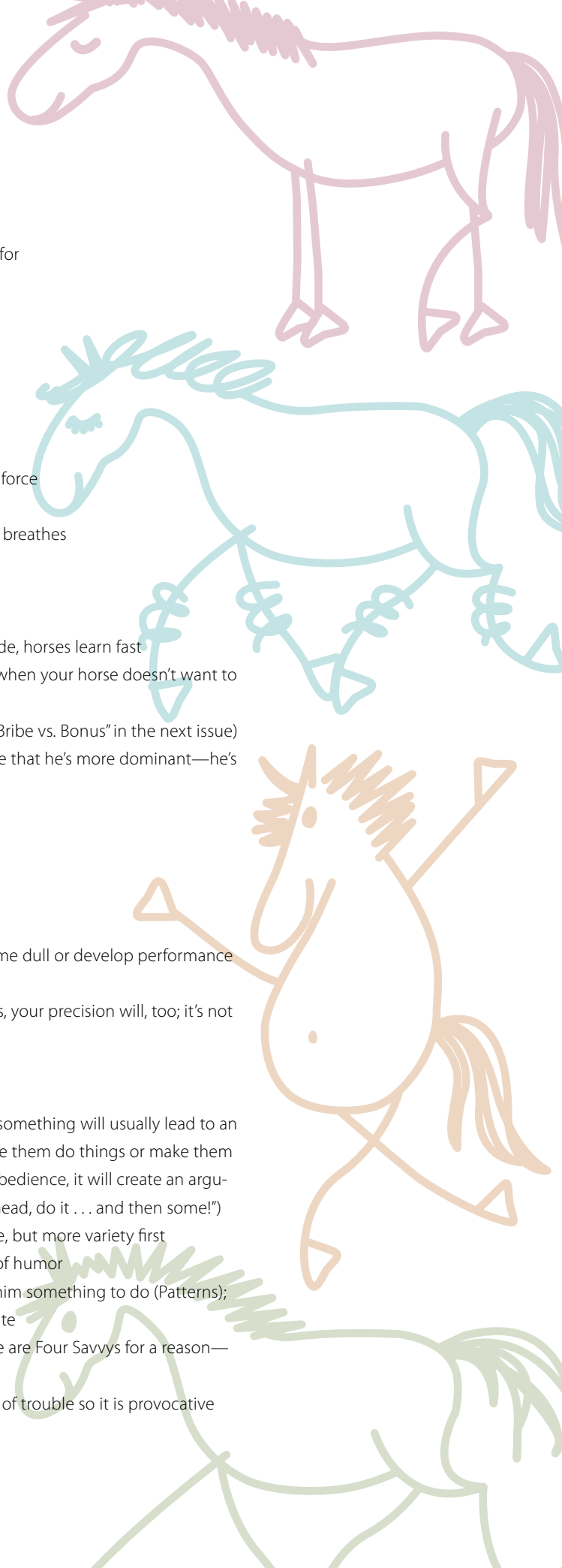
- Proceeding without permission
- Hurrying the horse when he hesitates
- Ignoring tension
- Pushing /coaxing rather than waiting and allowing; this equates to force
- Not enough retreat
- Not waiting until the horse has let go of the tension—sighs, blows, breathes
- Misreading obedience for willingness

Ruining the Motivation

- Too much repetition (once the horse is confident); in Left-Brain mode, horses learn fast
- Being too direct-line (use more reverse psychology—for example, when your horse doesn't want to go faster, ask him to go slower; it builds mental curiosity)
- Bribing with food rather than using it for incentive (see the article "Bribe vs. Bonus" in the next issue)
- No sense of humor (frustration on your part will signal to your horse that he's more dominant—he's gotcha!)
- Lack of creativity and imagination
- Lack of a plan and lack of flexibility in this plan
- Physical exercise—he's got to be mentally involved (Patterns)
- Micro-management—give him responsibility (Patterns)
- Asking for things before you've got him in the mood
- Asking for his all every time—if you overdo it, your horse will become dull or develop performance anxiety
- Perfectionism—you have to know that as the relationship improves, your precision will, too; it's not the other way around

Creating Disobedience

- Too much discipline too early—preventing your horse from doing something will usually lead to an argument (Left-Brain horses love to argue, so when you try to make them do things or make them feel wrong for doing something you didn't want, it will create disobedience, it will create an argument; just say "How interesting!" and then encourage him—"Go ahead, do it . . . and then some!")
- Not enough variety; you need consistency and variety for this horse, but more variety first
- Perfectionism—allow it to develop, don't demand it; have a sense of humor
- Lack of a plan: As soon as he is in the learning frame of mind, give him something to do (Patterns); you have to be one step ahead (or more!) in this quick-thinking state
- Too much precision, not enough relaxation to keep a balance; there are Four Savvys for a reason—use all of them!
- Asking for too much for too long; don't wear him out; stay this side of trouble so it is provocative but not pressure 🐾



The Parelli Professionals Promise

Relationship First

I promise to put my relationship with you, my student, first.
And I promise to help you put the relationship with your horse first.
Rather than perfecting the task, we will care more about
confidence, trust, motivation and willingness . . . as true horsemen do.

Four Savvys

I promise to help you become well-rounded in your savvy
both on the ground and riding; to prepare you for success at every
level to read your horse, understand his Horsenality™ and develop
your savvy skills On Line, at Liberty, in FreeStyle and Finesse.

Never-Ending Self-Improvement

I promise to inspire and support your quest for never-ending self-improvement.
The Parelli Pathway and Savvy Club will guide you to success and
help you measure your progress every step of the way.



*Parelli Professionals are our top students.
They've been through the journey, are still on it
at higher levels and are dedicated to passing on
our message with purity.
—Linda and Pat Parelli*



The Ultimate Way To Train Your Horse.

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Where is Your Horse Now?

Chart your horse every six months to make your progress visible... and note the improved Horsenality

Profile that now totally fits with the electronic Horsenality Report!



Parelli Horsenality™ Profile

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Extrovert

☐ high energy ☐ more "go" ☐ quick ☐ tendency to run

Introvert

☐ low energy ☐ more "whoa" ☐ slow ☐ tendency to stop

Left-Brain EXTROVERT



Left-Brain

- ☐ dominant
- ☐ brave
- ☐ confident
- ☐ calm
- ☐ tolerant

Right-Brain EXTROVERT



Right-Brain

- ☐ submissive
- ☐ fearful
- ☐ not confident
- ☐ nervous
- ☐ reactive

Left-Brain INTROVERT



Left-Brain

- ☐ easily bored
- ☐ pushy
- ☐ argumentative
- ☐ stubborn
- ☐ food focused
- ☐ disinterested
- ☐ unmotivated / lazy
- ☐ non-responsive
- ☐ low key

Right-Brain INTROVERT



Right-Brain

- ☐ tense
- ☐ can't think
- ☐ distrustful
- ☐ unpredictable
- ☐ tendency to kick (in fear)
- ☐ freezes then explodes
- ☐ compliant
- ☐ shy / timid
- ☐ hesitant
- ☐ shut down

Extrovert

energetic exuberant charismatic mischievous playful mouthy naughty bossy willful

Introvert

tendency to buck / charge easily bored pushy argumentative stubborn food focused disinterested unmotivated / lazy non-responsive low key

Extrovert

impulsive can't stand still fractious / panicky over reactive hyper alert tendency to bolt / rear forward holed flighty / spooky high headed bracy

Introvert

tense can't think distrustful unpredictable tendency to kick (in fear) freezes then explodes compliant shy / timid hesitant shut down

Left-Brain EXTROVERT

Right-Brain EXTROVERT

Left-Brain INTROVERT

Right-Brain INTROVERT

☐ mild ☐ moderate ☐ extreme

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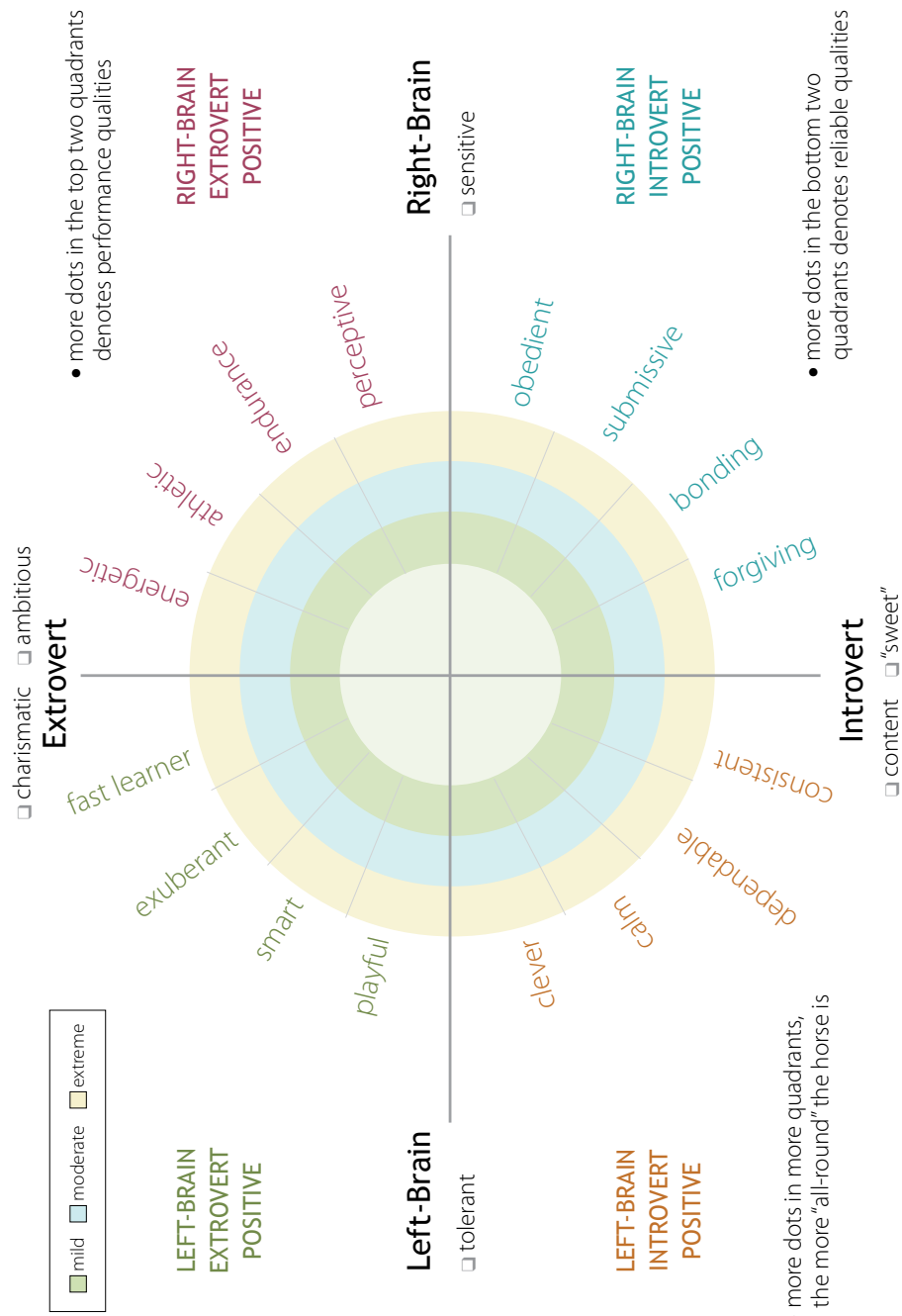
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Parelli Positive Attributes

NAME: _____

DATE: _____



Coming
Soon!

Not all Matches are made in Heaven



The Next Level

Every horse has their own Horsenality and a unique behavioral blueprint. For the first time in history you can generate a detailed report that reveals your horse. Take the Horsenality Report, or the full 3-part Harmony Report and take your relationship and success to the next level.

Horsenality Report

Can you imagine a 30+ page report that is totally focused on your horse? Learn why certain Games and Patterns can be more challenging, set play sessions up for success, understand strengths and solve problems with more clarity.

Personality Report

How does your personality change around horses? Do you have trouble with patience... or with goal achievement? Are you more cautious or adventurous? Your strengths and challenges are brought into focus

Match Report

Now we compare the match or mismatch between your horse and you! Knowing where you clash and why, then learning how you need to adjust will give you powerful tools for solving problems and reaching your goals... all by putting the relationship first.

Great to See You!

*Levels graduates since 1993 pose proudly with Pat Parelli at the Franklin, TN
and Sydney, Australia Celebration events!*



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Franklin, TN Celebration*



*Level 1 Graduates
Australia Celebration*



*Level 2 Graduates
Franklin, TN Celebration*



*Level 2 Graduates
Australia Celebration*



*Level 3 Graduates
Franklin, TN Celebration*



*Level 3 Graduates
Australia Celebration*



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Congratulations to the new Levels Pathway Graduates! January 2009-March 2009

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(On Line+FreeStyle+Liberty+Finesse)

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Don Halladay

Level 4 On Line

Alejandra Gonzalez
Doreen Matheson
Julie Opawska

Level 4 Liberty

Julie Opawska
Anna de Winter

Level 4 FreeStyle

Sarah Espinosa-Sokal
Farrah Green
Christi Rains

Level 4 Finesse

Farrah Green
Kelly Sigler

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(On Line+FreeStyle+Liberty)

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Evan Bonner
Karen Boso
Nancy Faulconer
Lori Frear
Katharina Gennari
Susanna Gerber
Paula Hehman
Jackie Hunt
Michelle Manshart
Sarah Merry
Hermann Niederkofler
Maria Niederkofler
Lori Northrup
Marion Oesch
Trina Romeo

Beth Smith

Eef Veenstra

Level 3 On Line

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Lisa Bradley
Lina Brandt
Debbie Craig
Anna de Winter
Linda Garriott
Carol Goebel
Sarah Grimm
Mariah Helms
Reyn Lehman
Victoria Manser
Caroline McCoy
Norma Morgan
Mirka Pitts
Paula Riella
Judy Sanders
Sandra Vann
Kelsey Woolsey

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Nancy Faulconer
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Donna-Maria Flood
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Rebecca Harris
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Shelley Newton-Carter
Shelley O'Doherty
Mirka Pitts

Brenda Schroder

Amanda Simonson

Karianne Von Ruth

Level 3 FreeStyle

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Mike Boso
Lina Brandt
Diane Brooks
Chris Cowherd
Debbie Craig
Anna de Winter
Michelle Manshardt
Shelley Newton-Carter
Mirka Pitts
Paula Riella
Brenda Schroder
Hannah Willis

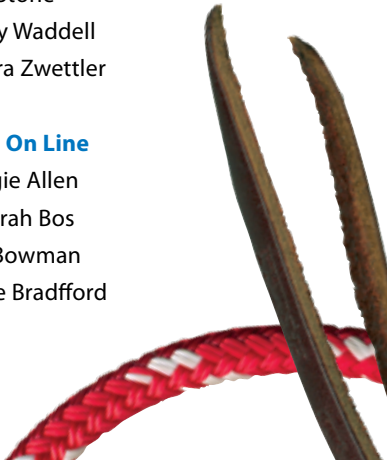
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Kimberley Hess
Niki Kleindiest
Kellie Leyen
Robin Lindsey
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Snjezana Mistic
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Pam Vargo
Clare Ventham
Chris Ward
Marisue Wells
Ann Woolsey
Bea Wrekenhorst
Sandra Zwettler

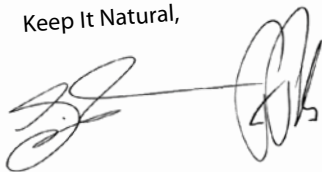
Savvy Club Upgrades!

For years, and years and years many of you have asked for more. Like me, you are on this thirsty quest for knowledge, and you can't get enough! It's taken us a long time (sorry!), but finally we have found a way to give you two new levels of more—more education, more inspiration, more more!

Savvy Club Silver gives you twelve audio CDs with Pat (one per month) and four Mastery Manuals. Via the CDs we give you access to the hundreds of "fireside chats" that Pat used to have with us at clinics and camps many years ago—something we haven't known how to pass on to the hundreds of thousands of Parelli students around the world now. And the Mastery Manuals give us an avenue in which to share in-depth studies on key subjects such as the independent seat, confidence, focus, feel, etc.

Savvy Club Gold gives you the same audios and all twelve manuals for the year. One of our Gold Members said after receiving her "loot" that she saw this as a home study course that would propel her faster and more deeply into her quest for ultimate horsemanship. On top of that, we are able to offer members of Savvy Club Gold a dedicated Gold Hotline that takes you directly to one of our highly qualified faculty members at the Parelli Center. You can talk about your situation and receive one-to-one coaching and advice. The Savvy Club is not just a collection of DVDs and magazines; it is a way to stay connected to Pat Parelli, to focus on new lessons every month and access a vast archive of valuable information via the Savvy Club vault on our website. It's about never-ending self-improvement. And stay tuned—there are some exciting new developments on the horizon for you!

Keep It Natural,



Linda and Pat Parelli

What people are saying...

I got my loot today! Oh my gosh, what great material! This is really totally awesome—lots of good stuff to begin my "golden" relationship with my horse through Parelli. Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to grow even more! Since I began with the Parelli program, I've never been disappointed. And with the new upgrade, my expectations are being completely satisfied way above and beyond. I can't put this material down. Thank you, Linda and Pat! This is really totally gold material!

I am a Silver Savvy Club member. I just wanted to let you know how important the Balance Manual has been to me. After studying this manual I have become very aware of my balance in everyday life. I know that when I ride I tend to lean forward. I have been working on getting on my balance point. I seem to be able to do this best by riding bareback. After reading the manual I noticed that when I walk, run and even sit at a table I tend to go a little forward. I have been working hard to correct this in everyday events. Thanks so much for making me aware of this! I think this manual is a must-have. Thanks!

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- 4 Tele-Seminar Q&A's

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- Savvy Club Gold Member Hotline

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FLUIDITY DVD,
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HACKAMORE



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LEAD CHANGES DVD,
NATURAL COLLECTION DVD,
CRADLE BRIDLE



The Ultimate Way to Train Your Horse



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CARROT STICK



SAVVY STRING



22-FOOT SNAP LINE



45-FOOT LINE



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Calendar of Events



Truly Changed My Life!

I just got home from the Celebration in Harrisburg, PA, and the best word I can think of to describe it is "WOW"! I have been to several tour events over the years and have always come away feeling inspired by all of the amazing things I saw, but this event was far and away the best I've ever attended! I feel like Pat and Linda gave us some incredible insight into reading every little minute detail of communication coming from our horses. To say I was riveted is a vast understatement! I guess I used to watch the horse the majority of the time, but I found myself watching Pat and Linda much more (in addition to the horse, of course) for your responses to each and every one of the horse's signals. I don't want to make this sound over-dramatic, but I feel as if this weekend has truly changed my life! Linda's session with Allure and Remmer at Liberty completely opened my eyes! To encourage the horse that they truly are... what a concept...and for you to share that with all of us was a true gift in every sense of the word. -Kelly J.

MAY

MAY 15-17

*Parelli Celebration,
Reno, Nevada, USA*

Join us in celebrating horses and creating the future for a more ethical, harmonious, successful and loving relationship with the horses to whom we owe so much.

MAY 17

*Colorado Parelli Center
Summer Session Begins*

Join us in Pagosa Springs this summer for an adventure in learning at the Parelli Center.

JUNE

JUNE 5-7

*Parelli Celebration,
Madison, Wisconsin, USA*

Join us in celebrating horses and creating the future for a more ethical, harmonious, successful and loving relationship with the horses to whom we owe so much.

JULY

JULY 4

Ingatestone Saddlery Demo, Essex, UK

Join us in Essex for an inspirational and educational Parelli demonstration at Ingatestone Saddlery Centre.

JULY 7-10

Royal Show, Stoneleigh Park, UK

Join us in Stoneleigh Park for an inspirational and educational Parelli demonstration at the Royal Show, the UK's leading agricultural show.

JULY 24-26

*Parelli Celebration,
Kansas City, Missouri USA*

Join us in celebrating horses and creating the future for a more ethical, harmonious, successful and loving relationship with the horses to whom we owe so much.

"Talk about inspiring and incredible - if you haven't been to one yet, you need to get tickets and GO!!

"I have to say, Parelli has changed my life. I am enjoying my time with my horses more than ever and learning to understand them better seems to have accidentally overflowed into the rest of my life. I find myself more relaxed, more patient and less stressed than ever before!" —AT

JUST GO!

**Here's to celebrating horses and the future...
naturally. We can't wait to see you there!**

Visit www.parelli.com for details and to learn more about special offers only for Savvy Club members!



2009 CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

Franklin, TN | Jan. 30–Feb. 1
Sydney, Australia | Mar. 13–15
Harrisburg, PA | Apr. 17–19

Reno, NV | May 15–17
Madison, WI | June 5–7
Kansas City, MO | July 24–26

Fort Worth, TX | Sept. 25–27
Lakeland, FL | Oct. 9–11
Birmingham, England | Nov. 21–22



The *ultimate* way to train your *horse*

Parelli offers you rapid and lifelong improvement and
the Savvy Club is your passport to everything Parelli.

And now there is a level for everyone!

Savvy Club • Savvy Club *Silver* • Savvy Club *Gold*

